

BL dismisses chairman of hop stewards' committee

ish Leyland yesterday dismissed Mr Derek Robinson, leader of the unofficial BL shop stewards committee, in the biggest management challenge yet to shop-floor authority. The dismissal was greeted by disbelief from management and unions. Picketing began immediately at Mr Robinson's Longbridge plant.

Instant pickets man factory gates

Difficult Webb, Leyland's industrial relations manager, said that the dismissal of Mr Robinson, the chairman of the unofficial BL shop stewards committee, was the company's recovery from a long period of industrial unrest. Mr Robinson, who had been dismissed for alleged involvement in a strike at Coventry today, was seen as the biggest challenge yet to long-established authority of shop stewards' movement in factories.

The news has shocked the factory and the wider area, with pickets appearing on the streets and men being driven away from the assembly lines. But it was not the end of the day shift, the full effect will be known until the factory opens this morning.

The booklets, entitled "A Union Response to the Leyland Strike", are being distributed to all workers. They contain a list of demands, including a 10% pay rise, a 40-hour week, and a 10% increase in overtime pay. The booklets also contain a list of names of workers who have signed up to the demands.

For £2 I can play a needy

Armed peace force sought for Rhodesia

he Patriotic Front leaders are calling for an armed Commonwealth peace-keeping force of several thousand men to police the ceasefire in Rhodesia. The demand, put forward by the Front's chief spokesman, is a direct challenge to the British Government's policy of a ceasefire.

New flag on Sinai

efore an audience of 10,000, President Sadat of Egypt has marked the second anniversary of his peace mission to Jerusalem at the remote biblical location of Mount Sinai. Mr Sadat said that the Egyptian flag on the mountain had not been seen since 1967.

British Council axe

Expenditure cuts could force the British Council to close its offices in some thirty countries over the next two years and lose up to a third of its home and overseas staff, Sir John Mowden, the director-general, says.

Iran puts 10 more hostages on show

From Robert Fisk, Tehran, Nov 19
Ten more American hostages were produced at a press conference at the United States Embassy in Tehran tonight after three hostages were released and flown out of Iran earlier in the day.

The first three to be freed by the Iranian students occupying the embassy—two blacks and a woman—were flown to a military base near Frankfurt via Copenhagen.

The four women and six black Marines who appeared before the press tonight are to be freed next, but about 50 other members of the embassy staff, who include two more women, remain captive with little hope of early release.

It is a long press conference, the 10 hostages gave some details of their 15 days' captivity.

Miss Elizabeth Montague, secretary to the American Charge d'Affaires in Tehran, said: "We got up around 6.30 or 7 o'clock every morning. We were isolated with our 'keepers' (the women students) between us. We were tied in chairs."

"Then when we had breakfast, there was Iranian bread, cheese, butter or jelly. We could have two cigarettes a day. After breakfast we would go back to being tied up again."

"We were well-treated and were not blindfolded after the first 10 days. When we ate we were so hungry we always had to eat."

She also said that at night the hostages had their feet tied, that at one point they had books confiscated from them, and that each prisoner had been "interrogated individually."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher took a first but courteous line on the two domestically explosive issues of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget and lamb in the first round of her two-day talks with President Giscard d'Estaing at No 10 Downing Street yesterday.

She insisted on the need to secure a "broader balance" between Britain's contributions and receipts instead of the estimated plus £1,000m deficit it will register next year if no corrective steps are taken.

Mrs Thatcher also insisted on the removal of all restrictions on lamb exports to France, in accordance with the recent European court decision.

She made it clear that there was no question of any bargain involving French concessions on the budget in return for British concessions on lamb, at least until the EEC has adopted the regulations for sheepmeat—as it is called in Brussels jargon—upon which France insists.

The President in any case rejected any suggestion of such a bargain by assuring sheep farmers of the South-west at the weekend that the Government would not let them down.

But the tough stand taken by the Prime Minister today was only a foretaste of the brinkmanship on these issues which she is determined to carry much further at the Dublin Summit in ten days' time before she agrees to some compromise satisfactory for Britain, short but not too short, of £1,000m.

But for all that, sparks did not fly during the talks. It is not Mrs Thatcher's style. He hates confrontation and came to London determined to avoid conflict between Britain and France on issues which he regards as Community matters.

The EEC budget and lamb, the latter only to a limited extent, were not discussed in the private talks between the President and Prime Minister, only in the enlarged talks. In private, their talks covered the broad picture, the Middle East and Iran, energy, and East-West relations, issues which the French President regards as at least as important as Britain's problems with the EEC.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary at Balmoral yesterday. With them are Princess Anne, her son Peter, Prince Edward, Prince Charles and Prince Andrew.

Mrs Thatcher firm on two EEC issues

By Charles Hargrove

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Ministers intend no Blunt case inquiry

By George Clark and Michael Hatfield

Ministers do not intend that any official inquiry should be established into the Blunt affair. They want the Commons debate on its security implications announced for tomorrow to settle the matter.

Their hope is that Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, will be trenchant in her insistence that there can be no repetition of security chiefs or civil servants failing to inform ministers and prime ministers.

Members of Parliament will be told by Mrs Thatcher that the arrangements have been reviewed, although it is clear that she was told about the matter almost immediately after she assumed office in May.

Whether the Opposition will agree to dropping an inquiry is another matter.

While welcoming the decision to hold a debate on the Blunt affair, Labour MPs were angry and suspicious last night about the purpose of the one-hour visit of Mr Michael Rubinstein, Mr Blunt's solicitor, to the Cabinet Office yesterday to discuss what Mr Blunt was likely to say when he comes out of hiding.

The explanation from Whitehall was that Mr Rubinstein had sought an interview with Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet, on anything which would be judged to be prejudicial to national security.

The fact that the request for an interview should have been granted, with the knowledge of Mrs Thatcher, may prove to have been a mistake. Labour MPs, and some Conservatives, are convinced that could be another attempt at a cover-up.

When it was suggested that the meeting could be regarded as trafficking with an enemy of the State, the answer was that the granting of immunity to confessed spies and deals with those involved in security cases were part of the daily traffic of the law-and-order enforcement organizations.

No answer was obtained on whether the consultation could have been about disclosing the name of the so-called "fifth man" who is said to be dead and who retired from the public service "covered with honours".

Mrs Thatcher, who will open the debate in the Commons tomorrow, has issued a sharply worded memorandum that she must be kept informed about the discoveries of the security service and any immunity bargains that its officers may make with agents.

She is concerned about blackening the names of dead people who cannot refute what may be alleged, and whose relatives could be seriously affected. Mr Blunt appears to have the same misgivings.

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Steppes are alive with the sound of Brezhnev

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 19

Leonid Brezhnev's memoirs, already hailed in this country as a classic of modern Soviet literature, have now been set to music. Last night saw the first performance in Moscow of a full-length oratorio based on *The Virgin Lands*, the Soviet President's reminiscences about days in the early fifties when he was directing agricultural developments in Kazakhstan.

The oratorio, written by Gennadi Zhubanova, the first Kazakh woman to become a professional composer, was performed to mark the Sixth Congress of Soviet Composers, which opened today. The official news agency, Tass, said Moscow critics were deeply impressed by the work's "sincere pathos" and expressiveness.

The Virgin Lands, the third part of a trilogy of memoirs by the Soviet President, was published last year. In it, Mr Brezhnev described his work opening up the steppe in Central Asia for agriculture—an achievement generally attributed by historians to his predecessor Nikita Khrushchev, but according to Mr Brezhnev, the real hero of the Soviet Communist Party.

The two earlier volumes, *The Little Land* and *Rebirth*, detail Mr Brezhnev's wartime service as a political commissar in the Caucasus and his role in the country's reconstruction after the war.

The composer, whose other works include a ballet called *The White Bird*, various symphonies, concertos, and television and film scores, is apparently noted for her blending of national folk music with contemporary musical culture.

The oratorio was performed last night by the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra and the State Television Choir conducted by Veronika Dudarova.

Mr Brezhnev's trilogy, all published in the last few years, has won him a Lenin prize, the highest Soviet literary award. The books have been filmed, shown on television, and turned into plays and mime. A song has been written based on *The Little Land* which is frequently played on Moscow radio.

The memoirs themselves are help up as the apogee of contemporary literary style, a model for Soviet writers and a record of achievement it behoves party members and students to study and admire.

Gramophone records were made of Stalin's speeches, countless plays portray Lenin and other Soviet leaders have been written about both of them. But this is thought to be the first oratorio based on the writings of a General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

It is expected that the work will be performed again soon, and often.

BBC television disrupted

The weather man was off the air last night as a hundred BBC technicians continued industrial action concerning a regrading dispute. The *Nationwide* and *Panorama* programmes were also affected.

Thirty-five sound technicians walked out in Glasgow and in Bristol technical managers and sound technicians began a 24-hour strike at 4 pm.

Forgo pay militancy to save coal's future, Sir Derek tells miners

By Paul Rowlings, Labour Editor

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, yesterday made an unprecedented public appeal to miners' leaders to forgo wage militancy for the sake of their industry's future markets.

The appeal was made in an open letter handed to Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, while they were on a half-day visit to Essen, West Germany, to honour a British mine machinery inventor.

Sir Derek plainly hopes to influence a crucial meeting of the NUM executive tomorrow, when the union's negotiating team will recommend rejection of the board's "final" offer of 20 per cent all round.

After the Scottish area decision yesterday, Mr David Belton, vice-president of the coalfield, said Mr Gormley was out of touch with realities and the feelings in the coalfields.

"Our members are well aware of what is happening to their social wage, not a bingo-style wage that might go up or down from week to week with the payment of productivity bonuses."

The Scottish area wants the union to go back to the board to negotiate on the full claim for a rise of up to 63 per cent, which would give the face worker £140 a week.

The NUM executive will have before it a unanimous recommendation from the 14-man negotiating team to reject the board's offer. This is unlikely to be reversed, but the board still hopes it could win a propaganda battle in the coalfields over the heads of union leaders if the package is put to a secret pithead ballot.

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Brother Lazarus: mentally and physically handicapped.

Raiders kill monk in cathedral

By Craig Seton

Police were searching last night for three young intruders who murdered a monk, aged 41, during an attempted robbery at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camberwell, south London, yesterday.

Colleagues said that Andreas Nicolaou, known as Brother Lazarus, was mentally and physically handicapped. He was reported to have died from blows to the head after the raiders tried to get the keys to the cathedral safe from him. Police believe he was repeatedly kicked.

The raid happened at the cathedral, in

July 10 1980

HOME NEWS

Population trends must increase unemployment total

By Peter Healey
Social Services Correspondent
Bournemouth

Unemployment in Britain will continue to rise even if the Government succeeds in creating a million new jobs in the next five years. That warning is given to the annual Local Authority Social Services conference, which opened in Bournemouth yesterday, by Professor John Stewart, director of the Institute of Local Government studies at Birmingham University.

Professor Stewart pointed out that the working age population was rising while the dependent population was falling. Numbers of school-age children would fall from 9.7 million in 1974 to 9 million in 1986, while the number of children would be coming on to the labour market in the next few years.

"The working population in this country... it works... going to increase by 1.2 million over the next seven to eight years," he said. "For almost the first time we have a rising working population and a falling dependent population."

It would be an enormous achievement if the Government did create another million jobs in the next five years, but unemployment would still continue to rise.

That was one of the realities

of present-day Britain that must be looked at hard by social services, department, Professor Stewart said. Another was the likely change in local government financing as the differences between local political parties became sharper and the Government entered on the brink of taking decisive steps towards central control.

"I believe ministers do not yet realise the implications of what they are doing," Professor Stewart said.

The unitary grants system being proposed by the Government would inevitably lead to ministers having to justify in Parliament cuts in social services, or dismissal of teachers, in specific local authorities.

The Government would have to state how much each authority should spend.

Professor Stewart told the conference that social services departments should be responding to calls for cuts in the context of the changed world of the late 1960s, when there was a general consensus that public services should grow.

Full employment and growth had been replaced by high inflation and a level of unemployment that was likely to stay above a million for the next decade.

Safety men at shipyard 'without supervision'

From Our Correspondent
York

Night patrol men who were supposed to carry out vital safety checks on a new warship had not been supervised for a week before a fatal fire, Mr Andrew Rodger, chief safety officer at the yard where the warship was being fitted out, said at York Crown Court yesterday.

The men whose job it was to report any safety infringements on the destroyer, at Swan Hunter's Newcastle yard at Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, had lost their chief safety officer two months earlier.

Mr Rodger added that a deputy had taken over, but he had left to take a job with another company and the men were not given any more supervision as to their duties.

Eight men died in a blaze on board the missile destroyer Glasgow after oxygen from a burner's hose built up and ignited in September, 1976.

The court was told that two other safety officers had been called in to supervise the safety checks on the ship but had not instructed men working on the night shift.

Mr Rodger told Mr Humphrey Potts, QC, for the prosecution, that shortly before the fire, factory inspectors and those from the Ministry of Defence and Admiralty had each checked the safety precautions on the vessel and had no complaints.

Swan Hunter have denied five charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act but their subcontractors, Telemeter Installation Ltd, who employed the victims, have pleaded guilty to three similar offences.

The trial continues today.

Order against drug addict doctor

An Indian doctor who admitted being a drug addict and alcoholic was ordered to be struck off the medical register yesterday.

The General Medical Council disciplinary committee heard that Dr Arun Patel, aged 41, is undergoing psychiatric and medical treatment in India.

Dr Patel, who practised in Wembley and Slough, has been suspended since 1977, when he was fined £100 for two offences for illegal drug prescriptions. He asked for 140 other offences to be taken into consideration.

The doctor has 28 days in which to appeal.

Whitehall brief: Can the Government break strikes? Part VI—the legal background Two key factors limit full use of emergency powers

By Peter Hennessy

The Government is not short of legal weaponry for use during emergencies arising from industrial disputes. The Emergency Powers Act, rushed through Parliament during the miners' strike of October, 1972, enables the Home Secretary to place regulations before Parliament which, if approved, grant the state sweeping, if temporary, powers over the citizen and his property.

The question these days is not whether the Government needs additional legal backing in that area (picketing is a separate matter) but whether other factors—the availability and skill of alternative military labour, the mood of the country—allow it to make full use of its existing powers.

The Act has been used to declare a state of emergency 12 times since 1920. Historically, the Home Secretary has had the most frequent recourse to the statute, invoking it five times between 1970 and 1973. Mr Edward Heath's successors have, so far, proved most reluctant to follow suit.

Mr James Callaghan pre-

ferred to use the Emergency Powers Act, 1964, a short measure designed to make certain defence regulations, passed in 1939, a permanent feature of administration. Under section 2 of the 1964 Act, troops can be used in industrial disputes without parliamentary approval, provided their use is authorized in a Defence Council Instruction (DCI) issued by order of the Defence Council and signed by two of its members.

Declaration of a state of emergency can therefore be avoided, provided the Government does not need powers to requisition property or equipment, or to save energy reserves by placing industry on a three-day week. Mr Callaghan used a DCI to break the firemen's strike of November, 1977, to January, 1978.

A fleet of Home Office fire engines, the "Green Goddesses", was available, a legacy from the period when the United Kingdom had a civil defence capability, and the military were not obliged, therefore, to enter picketed

fire stations to seize out any thought being given to the matter. They have since been deleted.

The firemen's strike, however, led the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office to review emergency powers legislation for the first time since 1964. The magazine, *State Research*, noticed that in Chapter 11 of Queen's Regulations, under the heading "Military aid to the civil authorities" (the official euphemism for strike-breaking), Regulation J11.004 (b) read as follows:

Where there is no proclamation of a state of emergency and the emergency is limited and local the Defence Council may, under the Emergency Powers Act, 1964, authorize Service personnel to be temporarily employed on work which the council have approved as being urgent work of national importance.

The "Green Goddesses", *State Research* noted, had been used on a widespread and national scale. The Ministry of Defence, and readers of the underground press, looked into it. Officials discovered that the words "limited and local" had been inserted into Queen's Regulations in the 1960s with-

only in Whitehall when the military came to terms with new realities after the mass picketing at the Salsley coke depot in 1972. The police are responsible for clearing a way for military convoys passing in and out of picketed installations. If, however, a chief constable sees his men becoming overwhelmed, he can, under common law, invoke the assistance of the military present in aid of the civil power.

It was not clear to senior officers in 1972 what the commander on the spot should do in such circumstances. The answer to that is now clear. He can accede to the request of the chief constable immediately without recourse to senior officers or the Secretary of State for Defence. Although, as Sir Robert Mark disclosed in his Metropolitan Police Commissioner report for 1975, in practice, the chief constable would first seek permission from the Home Secretary, who, in turn, would consult the Secretary of State before granting it.

Next: Lessons of the Recent Past.

A similar question of legality of orders was raised privately in Whitehall when the military came to terms with new realities after the mass picketing at the Salsley coke depot in 1972. The police are responsible for clearing a way for military convoys passing in and out of picketed installations. If, however, a chief constable sees his men becoming overwhelmed, he can, under common law, invoke the assistance of the military present in aid of the civil power.

The ministry also maintains that action taken under a DCI can be accounted for to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Defence who, as chairman of the Defence Council, is answerable to the House of Commons. As the Government moves into what the planners call "the 1979-80 strike season", the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office believe it has a watertight legal basis for using troops in industrial emergencies.

A similar question of legality of orders was raised privately in Whitehall when the military came to terms with new realities after the mass picketing at the Salsley coke depot in 1972. The police are responsible for clearing a way for military convoys passing in and out of picketed installations. If, however, a chief constable sees his men becoming overwhelmed, he can, under common law, invoke the assistance of the military present in aid of the civil power.

London airports link by helicopter can continue

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

After a three-week public hearing held by the Civil Aviation Authority, during which strong environmental objections were voiced, the authority decided yesterday to grant a licence for the helicopter link between Heathrow and Gatwick airports, London, for a further four years.

But the authority is to forward a copy of its decision, together with the evidence taken at the inquiry, to the Secretary of State for Trade so that he can decide whether to direct the authority to revoke or vary the licence on environmental grounds.

The service, operated jointly by British Caledonian Airways and British Airways with one Sikorsky S61 helicopter, has raised many objections on the ground of noise as it flies over residential areas of Surrey to provide a link between the two London airports for passengers wishing to change flights.

A number of conditions have been attached to the new licence. Not more than 11 flights in each direction are to be operated in any one day, and not more than 70 flights in each direction in any one week.

No flight is to leave Heathrow or Gatwick before 7.10 am or after 9.15 pm (the authority rejected a starting time of 6.45 am for Mondays to Saturdays), and no scheduled flight is to be operated solely for the carriage of cargo.

Giving its decision, the authority says that a number of measures were suggested at the inquiry for ameliorating the noise disturbance.

Such measures would involve some increased costs for the airlines and substantially increased costs in terms of airport use, passenger convenience, the provision of air traffic services, delay to fixed-wing aircraft, and the transfer of noise to other areas.

The weighing of environmental disadvantages against commercial and public benefits is for political decision, the authority considers.

Overeating a 'cause' of bad nutrition

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

The quality of the average British diet is falling, especially in lower-income groups, scientists at Reading University said yesterday. They called for more government intervention in food policy to improve diets.

Their conclusions, which were published by the Centre for Agricultural Strategy, were immediately contested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. "There is no evidence of under-nutrition in the public," the ministry said. It believed the most serious form of bad nutrition in Britain was probably over-eating.

The scientists said that a growing proportion of spending on food was being devoted to convenience foods in which nutrients were particularly expensive.

The ministry retorted that "in recent years there has been a recovery of food spending of which this report takes little account". Scientists at the strategy centre gave a warning that there was too much complacency about the British way of eating and its effect on health and wellbeing.

National Food Policy in the UK (University of Reading, 2 Earley Gate, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 5ES).

Mr Hytner said the couple's son, Stephen, now aged 19, was the only witness of the alleged kick. The police had been

Son alleged to have seen policeman kick sick man

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

A boy aged 12 saw a policeman kick his sick father in the ribs as he lay in the hall of their home, Mr Justice Tudor Evans was told in the High Court in Manchester yesterday. Mr Edward Platt, aged 36, the father, died a month later because the kick ruptured his spleen, Mr Bener Hytner, QC, said in a civil action.

Counsel said that in a statement while lying ill Mr Platt, a father of four children, claimed he was twice kicked by the same officer in the incident at his home in Woodstock Road, Merton, Manchester, on May 8, 1973.

Mrs Norma Wood, who has since remarried, is claiming damages for his death in a contested action against Greater Manchester police.

Mr Hytner, her counsel, said Mr Platt died from pneumonia and peritonitis. "Her case is that the spleen was ruptured by the kick from the policeman when he lashed out with his boot after losing his temper, possibly in revenge or retaliation after being struck himself by the deceased," counsel added.

Mr Hytner said the couple's son, Stephen, now aged 19, was the only witness of the alleged kick. The police had been

called to the house by a doctor treating Mr Platt, who had been drinking and had a history of psychiatric trouble.

Counsel said Mr Platt tried to damage the telephone and prised a central heating radiator from the wall.

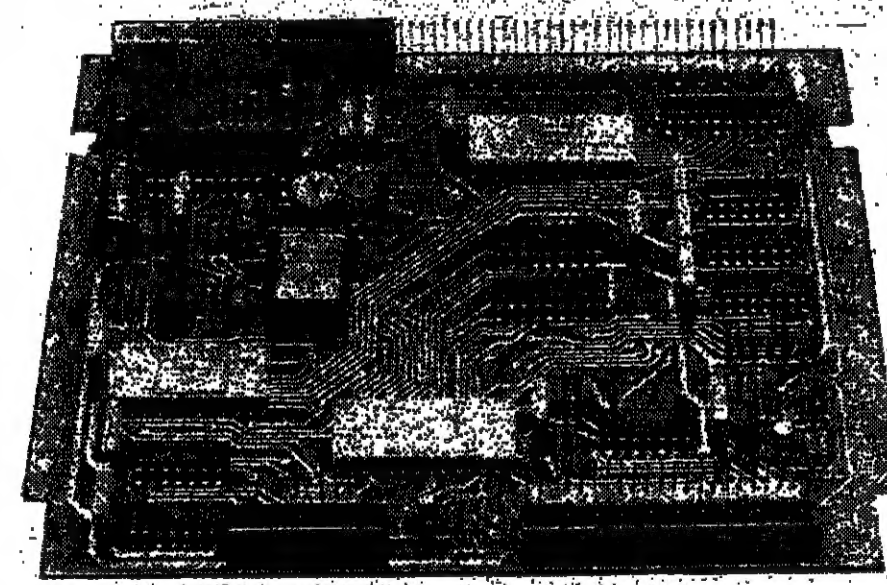
While Mrs Platt was upstairs the son saw his father lying handcuffed in the hall. Mr Hytner continued: "A policeman was standing with his foot on the neck of the struggling father. As he [the son] watched, he says, he saw the same officer kick his father in the left side."

Before her husband was taken to hospital he shouted to his wife "Remember 149, Norma don't forget 149". None of the five officers present had the number 149 but Constable Cecil Oiden was PC149.

Later, when he knew he was dying, Mr Platt made a statement to a solicitor, Mr Hytner said. He claimed he was kicked violently in the ribs by the same officer, PC149, who had said: "He cannot move now, I have got to head off size 10 boots on his neck."

Mr Hytner said the defence was a denial of assault, that the injuries were either self-inflicted or lawfully caused when the officers were restraining Mr Platt.

The hearing continues today.



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HOME NEWS

British Council may be forced to leave 30 countries

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The British Council could lose up to a third of its home and overseas staff and be forced to close its offices in about thirty countries over the next two years if expenditure cuts planned or being considered by the Government are implemented.

The Government had already decided to reduce its grant-in-aid to the council next year by £5.2m, 11.5 per cent down on this year's Government grant of £47m, Sir John Llewellyn, Director-General of the council, announced yesterday.

That, he said, would bring the loss of 550 jobs; the end of the Commonwealth youth exchange programme and of the academic interchange programme with Europe and the Commonwealth; a reduction by a half in the number of British Council scholarships; the withdrawal of English language teachers from seven countries; a 30 per cent cut in books and periodicals for overseas libraries; and a reduction in funds for book promotion overseas; a reduction of a quarter in the budget; and the closure of three of the council's 25 offices in Britain at Stratford, Reading and Canterbury.

In deciding where the cuts should fall next year, the council

had tried to preserve its network of overseas representation, Sir John said. There were council offices in some 80 countries. It was important for British trade, cultural relations and international understanding that Britain did not lose friendships that had been nurtured over long periods.

But the council was worried about the future. Further cuts could dangerously reduce its overseas representation. After next year, the council might lose up to 1,000 staff if the cuts were as expected. The council has a staff of about 4,500, half of whom are based overseas.

An inter-departmental committee, set up by the Government to advise on the work of the British Council and to see where future economies could be made, is due to report next week. One proposal it is considering would involve the loss of three quarters of the council's overseas staff.

Officials do not believe that its recommendations will be as drastic as that, but see a 30 per cent cut in 1981-82, which could mean closing offices in 25 to 30 countries. The main area for economies is likely to be the promotion of British goods and services in overseas offices, and its work in Europe, which accounts for about a third of its net budget.

Appeal for £1m to secure future of eisteddfod

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

A film appeal was launched yesterday in an effort to ensure that Europe's largest eisteddfod festival, the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, survives in a future increasingly threatened by inflation.

The appeal comes after months of good-humoured but committed arguments by members of the festival's ruling body, a majority of whom decided against plans to place it on a permanent site.

The arguments took place against the background of a report on the eisteddfod's future and financial prepared by the accountancy firm of Deloitte, Haskins and Sells.

Their report stated in part: "On the basis of relatively modest inflationary trends over the next seven years the excess of expenditure over income is not sustainable by the present capital resources of the eisteddfod. These are likely to exhaust by 1980."

It went on to say that the

projections up to 1985 would involve an increased level of ticket prices which would not appear to be sustainable. In spite of widespread fund-raising the Eisteddfod, which costs more than £500,000 a year, has been steadily losing money at a time when the number of Welsh speakers is declining.

The financial problems have been exacerbated by the governing body's refusal to countenance in the foreseeable future alternative plans to have a permanent site.

The appeal was launched by Mr Alan Llwyd, an editor of a Welsh language magazine. He said: "In our opinion it would be a grave blow to the unique nature of the eisteddfod if it ceased to be moving event."

Extra witness called in Lord Mountbatten trial

From Annabel Ferriman
Dublin

The tenth day of the trial of the two men accused of murdering Lord Mountbatten of Burma was adjourned early yesterday afternoon at the request of the defence counsel so that an extra witness could be called from Belfast.

Mr Patrick MacEntee, defending Thomas McMahon, aged 31, a fitter, from Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, requested that the prosecution should make available as a witness a sales representative from the National Paints of Southampton, the company that made the batten's boat.

Mr Edward Conyn, for the prosecution, said that he had not intended to call that witness but would now do so.

Earlier Mr MacEntee had concluded his cross examination

of Dr James Donovan, director of Ireland's Forensic Science Laboratory. He asked Dr Donovan whether he could identify the boat which had been used in the attack on the batten's boat.

As he had come into contact with the remains of Lord Mountbatten's boat, some of the flakes of paint from the boat could have rubbed off in his clothes or fallen on to the car he was inspecting, which the prosecution has alleged was used by the accused.

Mr McMahon and Mr Francis McGil, aged 24, a grave digger from Ballymore, Co Lestrin, both deny murdering Lord Mountbatten on August 27, when his boat blew up at Mullaghmore, Co Sligo.

The trial continues today.

One-subject science courses 'vital'

By Our Education
Correspondent

Single-subject science courses must be retained in schools if Britain is to develop high-level scientists and engineers and maintain a scientific elite, Professor Roger Elin-Soyke, of Sussex University, told a one-day conference organised by the Royal Society in London yesterday.

Falling school rolls, staff reductions, shortage of physics teachers and smaller schools with their time-tableing difficulties all mean increasing pressure to introduce "science for all" courses at the expense of the single subject subjects.

Professor Elin-Soyke, a theoretical physicist and a Fellow of the Royal Society, said:

"There was a danger that an integrated science course would provide a superficial acquaintance with many facets of science but achieve too little in-depth study."

Already syllabuses were over-loaded and there was an attempt to be too comprehensive. He himself had encountered not a few average university students in physics who, on arrival, had a nodding familiarity with many topics in the final degree syllabus but were deficient in solid understanding of basic elementary physics and mathematics.

"There is frequently no real secure foundation on which to build, and there is a natural fear that further broadening of science education within schools and the attendant simplification of scientific knowledge, in order that the syllabus be suitable for pupils of moderate and low ability, will only make the situation in this respect worse", he said.

It could be argued that if all pupils followed the broader course through until age 16, then there would be a larger pool of potential scientists than if narrow O level selections had to be made at an earlier stage. That, however, was a matter of judgment.

Even for the non-scientist, the study of one branch of science in depth and its attendant practical work might provide, in the end, a better appreciation of what science was about.

"We must take immense care in providing 'science education' for all. It is a high aim that has many full supporters, we do not in so doing undermine the preparation of school children for careers as professional scientists and engineers," he said.

Cyclists join protest over unrepaid roads

By Michael Bally
Transport Correspondent

Cyclists yesterday added their protest to that of industry and motorists over the deteriorating state of Britain's roads because of successive Government cuts in maintenance expenditure.

In a letter to highway authorities the Cycling Council of Great Britain urges a transfer of funds, if necessary, from road construction to road maintenance to meet "the critical situation".

It says that little has been done to deal with the ravages of last winter to road surfaces, and "that condition of many roads is a disgraceful sight".

It says that potholes and similar defects have become so hazardous that they can mean disaster, possibly fatal injury, to any cyclist unfortunate enough to ride into them.

The council urges cyclists everywhere to press their local authority to carry out repairs.



"Victim of Changes", by John William Kimpton, aged 17, of Marple Ridge High School, Stockport, Manchester, who won a £200 award in the National Exhibition of Children's Art, which opened in London yesterday.

Polaris challenge by churches

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The British Council of Churches yesterday publicly challenged the Government's intention to replace the Polaris weapons system with a new generation of atomic weapons.

Although the decision commits none of the member churches, it represents a considerable moral victory for a growing body of opinion in all the main denominations.

It was the first time such an important representative body had failed to offer general support and moral comfort to a Government atomic weapons policy.

The council was urged by Mr Sydney Bailey, a Quaker, to follow the logic of its decisions since the war.

Mr Bailey was introducing a report on the ethical and military issues by a department of the council, which said that "while nuclear deterrence may have kept the peace, it is difficult to use nuclear

weapons proportionately and justly; and if an act is wrong, a conditional intention to commit the act is also wrong".

The council's previous policy had been that Britain's possession of nuclear arms was tolerable as long as it was an aid to the negotiation of general nuclear disarmament.

This was no longer the case, Mr Bailey said. Britain's 64 atomic warheads had to be compared with America's 11,000. The British Government was about to take the necessary steps to renew Britain's nuclear deterrent when the Polaris system was withdrawn in the 1980s.

"We believe that the time has come for a responsible national debate on the ethical problems raised by nuclear weapons", Mr Bailey said.

Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Melton and a Church of England delegate, said that unilateral abandonment of the British deterrent would be seen as a weakening of Western resolve.

The Government's policy was

to renew the British deterrent force when necessary. That policy was supported by the Opposition, by previous governments, and "by millions of Christian people in this country".

Mr Giles Ecclesstone, secretary of the Church of England Board for Social Responsibility, said that he deplored any intention by the Government to make a decision without public discussion.

"It is of the utmost importance that before this decision is taken the British people are informed and enabled to express a judgment on this issue", Mr Ecclesstone said.

Mr Peter Partington, general secretary of the Church of England, said that it was dangerous to allow America a monopoly of moral decision-making in this matter.

The council resolved in the ratio of about five to two that Britain should withdraw from the Polaris system.

During the meeting the Rev Philip Morgan, aged 59, was appointed to succeed the Rev Harry Morton as general secretary of the British Council of Churches.

Official Unionists are silent on new moves

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Northern Ireland's Official Unionists last night took the exceptional step of insuring their MPs and officials to make no comment today on the Government's consultative document on devolved local government powers.

The move means no member will be allowed to speak on television or to newspapers about the long-awaited political initiative. It has been made clear that anybody who does so will be in breach of orders.

This unusual development indicates that there are deep divisions within the party over its handling of the affair in the run-up to publication of the document.

Members believe that their leader, Mr James Moynihan, reacted precipitately in telling the Commons that he would take no part in the debate.

But the Government is determined to push ahead with or without them and already scores of civil servants have been moved out of the Stormont building to make way for the conference which is scheduled to start early next month.

Officials are assuming that the talks will be held three days a week, possibly lasting until the spring.

A brief statement issued in Belfast last night by Mr

Moynihan said that his party's views would be put forward "after due consideration and consultation in the province and in the forthcoming debate in Parliament". The debate is due next week.

That cautious start is in sharp contrast to Mr Moynihan's abrupt rejection of the incident as a political initiative when it was announced in the Commons.

The obvious fear is that the Official Unionists will be outmanoeuvred by their fierce competitors, the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party.

Official Unionist sources insisted last night that the party was still determined not to join the round-table talks, but the inevitable inference being drawn here is that the party is trying to find a way out of its entrenched position.

The Official Unionist Party executive meets in Belfast on Friday, and it is possible, but by no means certain, that an agreed statement will be issued. Sources last night indicated that it may be left to the parliamentary party next week.

The silence of the Official Unionists will emphasize the acute disunity within the "loyalist" camp, and it is almost certain to give Mr Paisley further scope to enhance his position. Increased ideological noise for the Protestants in Northern Ireland.

Subsidized concert tickets 'benefit middle class'

By Martin Buckley
Music Reporter

People should be paying more for tickets to classical concerts and many other artistic events, according to Mr John Pick, director of arts administration at the City of London.

While there have been wide-spread complaints from arts organizations about having to charge high seat prices, particularly with the increase in value-added tax, Mr Pick, in an article in *Classical Music*, argued that subsidy encourages the arts to become a monopoly of the middle class.

He said it was a pity that heavily subsidized seats enabled all sections of society to join audiences for the arts.

Low seat prices, he said, meant that the arts were seen as a luxury and not as a necessity. He urged that people with advanced education who fill the majority of subsidized seats.

"Meanwhile, those leisure activities which do attract a substantial working-class audience have very much higher seat prices. It is now rare to find a seat for a football match for less than an average class spends on a Saturday night at a northern club."

In contrast, it was possible to book a seat for the Hallé Orchestra at the Festival Hall for only £1.40. The average seat price for classical music is only one-third of the average price for "popular" music. You cannot, for example, book a seat for a concert at the Royal Albert Hall for less than £4.50 to hear Marianne Transfer on their "United Kingdom tour".

Mr Pick also believed that heavily subsidized seats enabled all sections of society to join audiences for the arts.

Low seat prices, he said, meant that the arts were seen as a luxury and not as a necessity. He urged that people with advanced education who fill the majority of subsidized seats.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux grant doubled to £3m

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Government, which in June ended its 100 per cent grant in support of local authorities' advice centres at an estimated saving of £500,000 in the current year, is to double its grant to £3m in 1980-81.

Announcing the decision in the Commons yesterday in answer to a question from Mr John Fraser, Labour member for Lambeth, Northward, Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said that the Government's belief that the bureaux would have a greater role to play.

There is still concern that the bureaux will close at local level. The Advice Services in Crisis working party recently reported that many local bureaux are short of cash and depend on council grants which may be cut.

Touch of Scouse no drawback for guides

The impending recruitment of tourist guides on Merseyside could be regarded as a bad joke—perhaps even as a good one—by a stand-up comic with a Lime-street accent.

It is, however, about to happen in the city of Liverpool. The county council's Tourism Development Department is inviting applications for places on training courses which will occupy two afternoons a week for the first three months of next year.

There will be no age, sex, or colour discrimination, but the applicants will have to be capable of addressing groups of visitors in an articulate manner.

Being able to speak and read a great deal of knowledge of history, the arts, architecture, industry, shipping and commerce, and foreign languages will be an advantage.

A further asset will be possession of that rather special "touch of Scouse" which the area is noted. A touch of Scouse in the pronunciation will be entirely acceptable.

The most important qualifica-

Regional report

John Chartres
Manchester

tion of all will be a pride in the place.

Tourism on Merseyside is a serious business and an important part of the economy. It is, according to Mr Ronald Jones, the county's tourism development officer, bringing in about £40m a year and supporting some 10,000 jobs.

The county of Merseyside stretches a long way either side of Liverpool Mersey and, apart from the attractions in the city itself, which are considerable, it makes in such delightful places as Southport, Lord Street, the Knowsley Safari Park, the Royal Birkdale, the Royal Liverpool Golf Course, and other golf courses, the Wirral Country Park and the Habitat of the natterjack toads at Alnedale.

Where in the time was said, the attraction to the Liverpool English Tourist Board booklet, "What you see is what you get" is the sea, the walk, an afternoon's sunbathing, a picnic, a drink, a close French restaurant 375 feet up in the sky, and a view of the city from the top of the Mersey Tower.

Quite apart from its role in such points of cultural importance as the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, the Walker Art Gallery, the Royal Liverpool Golf Course, the Royal Birkdale, the Royal Liverpool Golf Course, and other golf courses, the Wirral Country Park and the Habitat of the natterjack toads at Alnedale.

There is still a great deal to be done in the way of growing in its attractions, as time passes, even though the site of the Cavern is now a temporary car park.

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Father offers to pay to keep school open

From Our Correspondent
Sheffield

Mr Leonard Craven, a wealthy businessman, is prepared to pay £3,000 a year to keep open the village school which his daughter attends.

And if education chiefs refuse his offer he is willing to buy the school outright and run it for the children in the village of Thorpe Salvin, near Worksop.

Rotherham education authority want to close the old, stone-built school, which has 42 pupils, because falling rolls have made it uneconomic. By closing it, they argue, they will save £2,000 a year in wages and overhead expenses.

But Mr Craven, aged 47, the chairman of a group of eight companies, whose eight-year-old daughter, Rebecca, has been at the school four years, is ready to make up the loss.

"I don't want my daughter to move from this school. The standard of education is better than anywhere else," Mr Craven said.

But last night the National Union of Teachers poured cold water on the offer. Mr Dennis Bates, the union's provincial secretary, said: "There is a danger such a scheme would create a system of privilege."

Mr Leonard Taylor, Rotherham's director of education, said the plan was being considered.

No trace

Despite a 12-hour search, no trace was found yesterday of Anthony Sports, aged three, believed to have drowned in the River Till on his grandfather's farm at Henlaw, Chalfon, Northumberland.

Fleet Street's progress to new technology has another setback

By Roger Berthoud

Fleet Street's tortured progress towards the new printing technology suffered another setback with the announcement last week that the Daily Express group had abandoned its apparently firm plans to go over to computer typesetting and photocomposition.

The Daily Mirror remains the pioneer in Fleet Street in the use of computer terminals. It is already widely, if patchily, in use. The Times and its sister publications have the equipment and agreements on its use.

The Observer also has the equipment, and has just resumed talks with the National Graphical Association, the principal printing union involved, mainly on rates of pay and allied productivity issues.

The Observer is not seeking to give journalists and advertisement staff direct access to the computer terminals. The plan abandoned by the Daily Express was similar to The Observer's. Times Newspapers and the NGA have agreed to settle the question of input within 12 months.

The Daily Telegraph is committed to the introduction of new technology, but has neither chosen its equipment nor negotiated working agreements. The rest are looking on hoping that the experience of others and technological progress will work in their favour.

The most troublesome issue at present in Fleet Street seems to be a different form of technology, the electronic transmission of full-page facsimiles between London and Manchester, where many Fleet Street newspapers print their northern editions.

Ruth The Daily Telegraph and the Daily Express want to "The Guardian and the Daily Mirror in introducing that

facility, which saves duplicated setting and, in principle, promotes more efficient distribution. Again, it is not really new; the Daily Mirror first used it in 1967.

In greater detail, the situation seems to be as follows: The photocomposition system introduced by the Daily Mirror in 1978, and to the Daily Mirror the next November, would have been the most advanced in the world on the basis of its specifications. It had worked well.

That, too, has caused difficulties; members of the National Union of Journalists at the Daily Mirror in Manchester have this month sought a High Court injunction against their employers, claiming that the repeated late arrival of London pages in Manchester was in breach of an agreement on local staffing levels and related matters.

Express Newspapers: Explaining the group's decision to abandon plans to go over to technology, Mr Jocelyn Stevens, its deputy chairman, said last week that events at Times Newspapers and the Daily Mirror's difficulties had been discouraging.

Yet it was in the midst of The Times's troubles, last February, that Mr Stevens and the NGA jubilantly hailed as a breakthrough an agreement on new technology giving the NGA full jurisdiction over the typesetting of editorial and advertising matter, subject, it is understood, to review after five years.

Commenting as editor of the Daily Express, Mr Derek Jameson said he was quite happy with his metal, which worked perfectly well. He seemed to believe that they were to be spared the difficulties of switching to photocomposition, and that the problem had been put on one while they sat on the sidelines," as he put it.

The next development must, he said, be to increase printing capacity in London and to introduce facsimile transmission to Manchester. "If I could wire up pages like Hickey to Manchester, it would give their composing room capacity to do more editing for the Daily Star and Daily Express in the North of England."

But they had not yet got agreement with the unions on this. Ultimately the Daily Star would come to London, but there were no plans for it to be composed in London. It would be a facsimile operation, and they hoped to be on some form of that next summer.

At the headquarters of the NGA Mr Les Dixon, the union's president, said he saw "no

great problem" over this, except for some copies the Express wanted to publish in Liverpool (an issue rendered sensitive by the closure of the Scottish Daily Express in Glasgow in 1974).

The Express group also faces the task of moving the editorial and composing room departments of the Evening Standard, still in Shoe Lane, to its Fleet Street headquarters. All that probably explains better than events at The Times and Daily Mirror the group's reluctance to embrace the new technology.

The Daily Telegraph is also trying to negotiate facsimile transmission to its Manchester offices. But in addition to difficulties over staffing levels in Manchester, it is also known to be facing demands from the NGA for a statement on whether NGA members will enjoy sole access to the computer terminals.

A statement is understood to be in preparation. Mr Dixon acknowledged that the two issues were "tied up".

The Observer: Looking at its 24 aging and virtually replaceable Linotype machines of limited capacity, The Observer felt it had no choice but to go over to photocomposition. Mr James Cox, production director, said:

But given a defined budget and the weekly nature of the paper, they had gone for a simple solution. They had opted for composition for hot metal, with everyone, fulfilling the same functions, except those which ceased to exist. The NGA had said they would not see any difficulty in reaching an agreement.

However, there are elsewhere, achieving a standard composing room rate after very high piece rates will not be easy. The NGA's involvement in The Times dispute, Mr Cox said, had been a great help.

The photocomposition system, which would be much faster and more productive, had been installed, and training was going on.

There were some demarcation disputes outside the NGA's area. As soon as agreement had been reached, photocomposition would be introduced page by page.

The Guardian: Since The Guardian moved from The Sun, it has been producing its "time-critical" pages had been produced in London and sent to Manchester by facsimile transmission. Mr Ian Wright, managing editor, said: The rest were produced in Manchester and sent down as a paper-maché, would (or sang) by train to London.

They were not believers in the "big bang" approach to new technology, he said. There had been various small steps; classified advertisements were set in Manchester by photocomposition, as were radio and television programmes.

Ministry to sell village with 'medieval' farms

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

The village of Laxton, near Newark, Nottinghamshire, which remains its medieval system of open-field farming, is to be sold by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Nearly two thousand acres, worth an estimated £2,500,000, will come under the hammer as part of Government economy measures.

The ministry took over Laxton from the Mansvers family in 1952 to preserve the ancient system. It is hoped that the buyers will retain the farming methods, which are still administered by medieval field juries and the court leet, which can impose fines on the 14 farmers for poor cultivation.

On sale will be a total of 13,000 acres of Government-owned agricultural land in various parts of Britain, including the Long Sutton estate near Spalding, Lincolnshire, which was rented out to smallholders after the First World War.

Paper work cut

Hereford and Worcester County Council is to abolish 27 subcommittees after councillors said they were bogged down in paper and committee work.

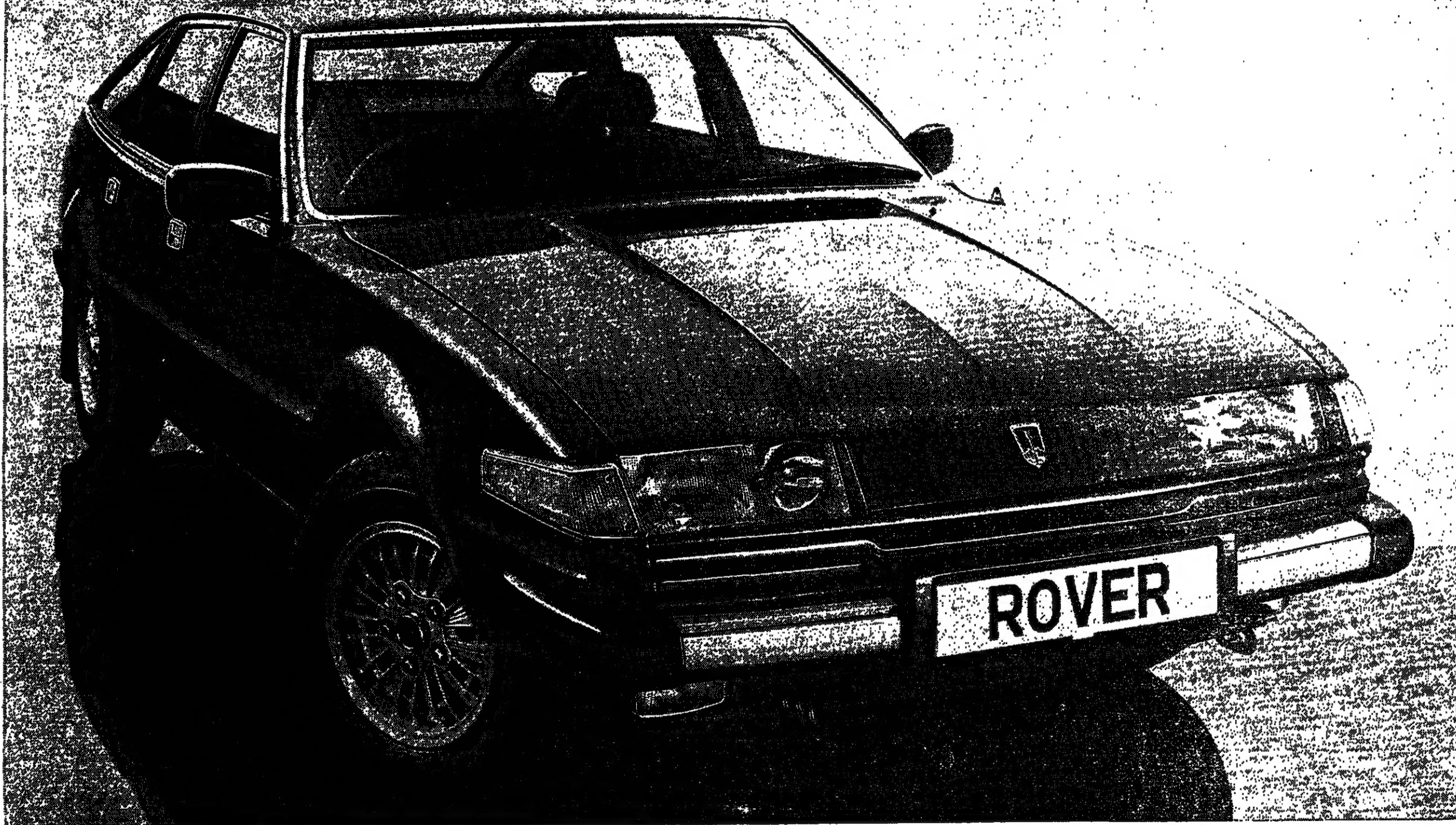
One said he had once been summoned to attend three different meetings at the same time. The council chairman, Mr John Cotterell, said yesterday: "We believe the efficiency of the authority will actually be improved, and it could cut the number of meetings by more than half."

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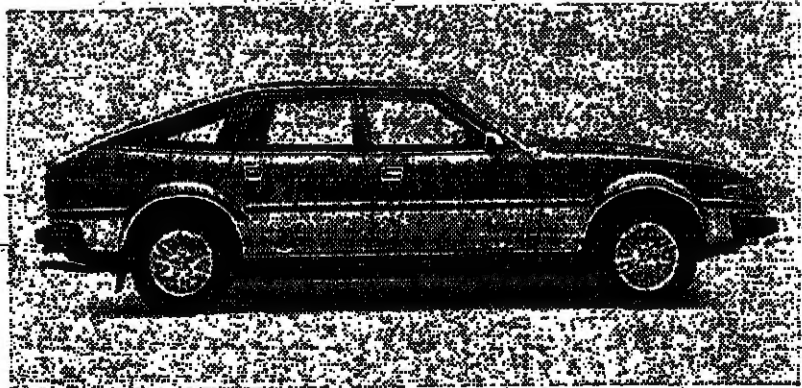
r guides

WHAT SHAPE WILL YOUR CAR BE IN FOR THE 1980's?



More economical shape

The motoring times are changing fast. Most of the big saloon cars designed for the '70s are beginning to look decidedly inefficient and out of date. With four notable exceptions. The new Rovers—2300, 2600, 3500 and V8S—were designed for the 1980's from their very conception, with a unique combination of high performance, high quality, outstanding design and quite exceptional fuel economy.



In the 1980's, a fuel saving aerodynamic shape will be essential. Rover's design is well ahead of its time and its competition. Rover elegance is a direct consequence of aerodynamic efficiency, giving an unmatched balance of performance with economy—the powerful Rover 3500, for instance, cruises at 36mpg* and reaches 122mph.

Better shape

The 1980's will demand better built, longer lasting cars. Every Rover passes through a succession of the most stringent quality control checks known in the car industry. The paint and protection process alone is one of the most sophisticated in the world: 2 layers of anti-chip primer are electrostatically bonded to the body before 4 coats of thermoplastic, anti-fade paint are baked on.



Long term durability is tested in conditions ranging from the Texas deserts to the Lapland snowfields.

Safer shape

The 1980's will have their hazards. Today's Rovers are designed to protect you from them. They share a strong, monocoque body shell with impact absorption zones front and rear, and energy-absorbing compression struts in the door panels. The fuel tank is securely positioned in front of the rear axle and the system carries a fuel cut-out switch, to minimise accident fire risk. Every Rover is fitted with a



Triplex Ten Twenty Superlaminated safety windscreen. The brakes have a failsafe dual circuit. Inside, potential impact areas are padded and all the car's essential systems are monitored and displayed on the fascia.

The Rovers for the 1980's are obtainable now from your Rover showroom. A test drive will soon show you the difference between yesterday's car and tomorrow's.

Rover. In great shape for the 80's.

*Complete Government Fuel Consumption Figures. Rover 5-speed automatic 2300 urban motoring 17.5mpg (16.1 litres/100km), constant 36mpg (30.0km/h) 36.3mpg (7.7 litres/100km), constant 75mph (120km/h) 31.0mpg (9.1 litres/100km). 2600 urban motoring 18.5mpg (13.3 litres/100km), constant 36mpg (30.0km/h) 38.2mpg (7.4 litres/100km), constant 75mph (120km/h) 30.2mpg (9.4 litres/100km). 3500 urban motoring 16.2mpg (17.4 litres/100km), constant 36mpg (30.0km/h) 36.3mpg (7.7 litres/100km), constant 75mph (120km/h) 27.8mpg (10.1 litres/100km). 5-speed gear box optional on the 2300. Car shown features optional alloy wheels.

This notice is for your information only. It is not a contract. The actual terms and conditions of sale will be found in the Rover brochure. Please read it carefully.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1979

7

COULD YOUR BANK MANAGER HELP YOU HAND OVER YOUR BUSINESS WITHOUT MOST OF IT GOING TO THE TAX MAN?

Sooner or later, everyone owning a business comes up against the problem of Capital Transfer Tax.

Which can mean that, if you're planning to hand your business over to your children or others, you can end up handing a lot of capital over to the Inland Revenue. You could even have trouble keeping the business going.

Not, perhaps, exactly what you had in mind; but then again, not exactly the kind of thing you'd expect your bank manager to help you with.

After all, nobody asks tax experts to lend them money—so who goes to a bank manager with tax problems?

Well, if he's a Midland Bank manager, maybe

you should. Because you can expect the unexpected from the Midland. You see, your Midland manager has at his disposal a wide range of specialist advisers and services who can, between them, help to answer all sorts of business needs.

In this case, he could put you in touch with Midland Bank Group experts who could suggest a number of ways in which you can properly minimise your Capital Transfer Tax liability. So that your capital ends up where you want it.

Start thinking of your Midland manager and his team as the people to deal with your business needs. Because, thanks to teamwork, you can expect us to come up with solutions you'd never expect.

You can expect the unexpected from Midland teamwork



Midland Bank

WEST EUROPE

Spain warns Russia on link with Nato

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Nov 19

Any attempt by the Soviet Union to influence Spain's decision on membership of Nato would be resented, the Spanish Foreign Minister told his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, here today.

Senior Marcelino Oreja did not specifically mention Nato but left little room for doubt when he said: "Spain feels itself to be a part of the Western world". It was determined to integrate itself fully into a world to which it belonged by reason of its geography, its history, its culture and its way of life.

"In this choice, we do not wish to see, in any way, any antagonism towards any country or group of countries."

Senior Oreja made his remarks at a state dinner in honour of the Soviet minister, who arrived in Madrid early this afternoon for a three-day visit—the first official visit ever made to Spain by a member of the Politburo.

Senior Oreja defended the need for all states to abstain from any intervention, direct or indirect, in the internal or external affairs of others. He added: "We believe that the time has come to progress from the mere condemnation of terrorist activities, as proclaimed in the final act of Helsinki, to an active commitment for international co-operation."

Mr. Gromyko presented King Juan Carlos with a letter from President Brezhnev, which included an invitation for him to visit Moscow. The invitation was significant considering that Spain's diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union date only from February, 1977.

French Canadian awarded the Prix Goncourt

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 19

A French Canadian has become the sixth winner of the leading French literary prize, the Prix Goncourt, since it was established in 1903. She is Antonine Maillet, born 50 years ago in New Brunswick.

Her prize-winning book, *Les Éboulements*, tells the story of the 10-year pilgrimage of the Acadians, exiled from their land by the British in 1755, to return to New Brunswick after the treaty of Paris relinquished any French claim to Canada in 1763.

Miss Maillet was influenced by the stories passed down in the community of Bouctouche



Mrs Margaret Thatcher and President Giscard d'Estaing entering No 10 Downing Street from Horse Guards Parade for their talks yesterday.

W Berlin police deport three Arabs to Libya

Berlin, Nov 19.—Three Palestinians, including one who took part in a guerrilla attack on Athens airport six years ago, were deported from West Berlin to Libya today.

The were flown to Tripoli via Frankfurt. They included Ali El-Arid, aged 27, who was sentenced to death in Athens in 1973 for an attack on an American airliner in which five people were killed.

Police feared the three Palestinians had come to Berlin to carry out an attack to force the authorities to release seven Arabs on trial on charges of planning to blow up the city's biggest fuel depot.—Reuter.

EEC Commission aims to cut farm support costs by £600m

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

The European Commission has devised new measures that would cut the cost of the common agricultural policy by a tenth. Proposals that will include a scheme to penalize dairy farmers for excessive production will be discussed by the commissioners this week. If accepted by ministers they will cut costs by £600m.

Mr. Fim Gundelach, the Agricultural Commissioner, said in London yesterday: "It is not the old time. It is a different time." He was speaking to reporters after explaining the plan to Mr. Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture. "I do not think he is the most difficult minister I will have to deal with," Mr. Gundelach said.

He made it clear that the Commission wanted the plans to be complete before the next meeting of heads of government and ministers of agriculture to discuss Community co-operation.

The British Government's complaints about the size of the Community's payments to the Community next year will be debated at the European "summit" in Dublin at the end of this month.

Asked how soon he wanted the Commission's plans to be completed, Mr. Gundelach said: "It must be done before Dublin."

He explained that the new scheme would be aimed principally at milk production, followed by sugar and beef. Those are the products which make the most expensive and intractable

surpluses. The Commission's package will also include cuts in the cost of supporting other and processed horticultural crops.

The resulting savings fall well below the £1,000m at issue in the argument about Britain's contribution. But at £600m they would be worth almost double the annual cost of financing Britain's comparatively small share of the Community's "mountains" of surplus food.

The largest shares are in West Germany, where earlier this year more than 500,000 tonnes of dairy produce, 800,000 tonnes of wheat and almost 450,000 tonnes of rice were being stored at Community expense.

Michael Hornsby writes from Brussels: The gap between what Britain is demanding and what the rest of the EEC is prepared to offer to reduce the British net payment to the Community budget looked as unbridgeable as ever after a meeting here today of finance and economic ministers of the Nine.

Even allowing for brinkmanship in advance of the EEC "summit" in Dublin on Thursday and Friday next week, at which the budget issue will predominate, it is clear that there will have to be a startling change of mood to produce an income acceptable to all parties.

Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, from his EEC colleagues was that the most Britain can hope for is an amended version of the present mechanism, albeit, ironically enough, in Dublin in

1975—for correcting excess budget contributions.

That, however, according to calculations by the European Commission, would not reduce Britain's net deficit, which is forecast to reach nearly £2,000m next year, by more than £300m or £400m. Such a solution, Sir Geoffrey said, would be "clearly inadequate".

Sir Geoffrey calculated that the maximum benefit available under the present mechanism would still leave Britain, by the most charitable reckoning, the size of that of West Germany and four times as big at that of France.

More realistically Britain would still be paying, in net terms, more than West Germany and nearly seven times as much as France. The difference between the two estimates depended on whether the EEC subsidies on food trade were credited to importing or exporting countries.

The Government would be satisfied with nothing less, Sir Geoffrey said, than a decision by heads of government at Dublin that would "take effect in the 1980 budget" and would be "directed towards" the restoration of a "broad balance" between Britain's contributions and receipts.

There was a strong hint from Herr Hans Matthofer, the West German Finance Minister, that Britain's grievance might be viewed more sympathetically in return for concessions in other areas, such as energy policy and the long-running fisheries dispute.

OVERSEAS

Patriotic Front guerrillas call for armed peace-keeping force of thousands to police cease-fire

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leaders, yesterday called for a Commonwealth peace-keeping force "several thousand strong" as the vital condition of a ceasefire in Rhodesia.

Presenting their basic principles for a ceasefire, the guerrilla leaders insisted that the British proposal, for a mere monitoring force, was quite unacceptable. A very substantial Commonwealth force, armed and equipped to ensure observance of the ceasefire should any breaches occur, was essential, they said.

The demand represents a fundamental difference from the British approach to a ceasefire, and poses some difficulty for Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who is the chief negotiator in this declared aim of bringing the constitutional conference to a successful conclusion in a matter of a few days.

Lord Carrington, who underlined again yesterday his determination to reach a quick decision, will give his reply to the Patriotic Front's proposals this morning and will also respond to various questions raised by the Salisbury delegation.

The British fear is that if the conference fails to act quickly, there is a serious risk of the guerrillas reaching so far as to "unravel" in Salisbury.

Mr. Nkomo said yesterday that his too was in favour of speed and an agreement in a few days. But the Patriotic Front's view is diametrically opposed to this. As Lord Carrington has explained, it is a firm date for the ceasefire.

Mugabe added that what mattered was not the ceasefire itself, but the responsibility of observing it. It would fall to military commanders, backed by British and Commonwealth observers, numbers few hundred in all.

The differences in approach, they stand, are of kind just numbers, which make the task of negotiating a ceasefire extremely difficult not out of the question. It is also the difference of air with Lord Carrington saying a ceasefire of about days, and the Patriotic Front speaking of a period of months.

If the pattern of the ceasefire is repeated, Lord Carrington may in the end decide to lay down the kind of sole judge and arbitrator in circumstances, and insist the parties take it or leave it.

On the question of the nature of forces, the Patriotic Front proposals state that guerrillas are not prepared to surrender their arms under guise of agreeing to a ceasefire. They propose that the arms be carried out in two stages. First, the basic democratic areas dominated by one side and the other and the drawing of ceasefire lines. Secondly, order to provide the necessary political freedom for electing the regrouping of both forces.

The Patriotic Front's proposals also demand the disarmament of their own police to maintain civilian order, and the surrender of private arms, which they estimate at 155,000 weapons.

Initially, they demand South African forces and other foreign military personnel in Rhodesia must be withdrawn.

Delegation seeks food supplies in Zimbabwe Rhodesia's 'huge shopping list'

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Nov 19

Zimbabwe is actively seeking a wide range of foodstuffs from Zimbabwe Rhodesia in a desperate attempt to make up for the serious food shortages confronting its six million inhabitants.

A Zimbabwe delegation paid a visit to Zimbabwe Rhodesia yesterday, armed with what is described as a "huge shopping list" of foodstuffs. Among the commodities being sought by the Zimbabweans were crops, meat, fruit, vegetables, potatoes, and vegetable oil.

It is believed to have been the first visit by a Zimbabwe delegation of this kind since the frontier between the two countries was closed in 1973.

A spokesman for the quasi-governmental agricultural agency described last week's visit as exploratory. "They wanted to find out what we could provide them and at what price," he said.

The fact that Zimbabwe is prepared to send a food-purchasing delegation to Zimbabwe Rhodesia before the Lancaster House talks have finished, is an indication of the seriousness of its food crisis.

The most pressing need is for

maize, their staple food, although maize was not among the items being sought during the visit.

Contact between the two countries over the large-scale purchase by Zimbabwe of Zimbabwe Rhodesian maize have been taking place (usually in South Africa) since last year, when Zimbabwe asked Zimbabwe Rhodesia to supply it with 3,500,000 tonnes. However the Zimbabweans laid down certain conditions which were considered unacceptable by Zimbabwe Rhodesia—among them that the deal should be kept a closely guarded secret and that Zimbabwe Rhodesia should provide Zimbabwe with two years' credit.

As yet, the Zimbabweans made a further request for between 250,000 and 300,000 tonnes of maize, of which 200,000 tonnes would have to be provided before the end of this month.

This time the Salisbury Government made no mention of the deal, but the Zimbabweans were asked to control the activities of guerrillas belonging to Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZimPRU) who are based in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Rhodesians also called for the complete reopening of the border with Zimbabwe, especially the road bridge across the Zambezi at Obi.

President Kaunda of Zambia responded the railway bridge connecting Zambia and Rhodesia at Victoria Falls, a year ago, but the main road bridges have remained closed.

Six weeks ago the Zambians, having failed to reach an agreement with the Salisbury Government, approached the South Africans for the supply of 200,000 tonnes of maize. However, the Zimbabwe Rhodesian Government has advised South Africa that it would not be able to transport anything but a small quantity of maize from Zimbabwe Rhodesia unless road links were reopened.

According to Rhodesian sources, Zambia's current maize requirements stand at about 21,000 tonnes a day. However, even now, it is estimated to only 1,500 tonnes a day can be provided through Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

Just last week 150 tons of maize a day were being transported into Zambia across the Victoria Falls rail bridge, but the Salisbury Government has now placed an embargo on further maize supplies.

Zambia's economy of 100,000 people is suffering from the effects of the embargo. The British coming at a crucial stage of the Lancaster House talks, clearly designed to put pressure on President Kaunda to accept the British proposal.

Woodstock's other than maize, are still being moved in Zambia in the 35 rail wagons which cross the Victoria Falls bridge each day. It is not possible to increase the amount of rail traffic crossing the bridge because of the length time it takes for the trucks to be turned round in Zambia.

Four years dismantling the Franco legacy

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Nov 19

Spaniards awoke four years ago to news that they knew would change their lives. Death had finally deposed General Franco.

With his death, just two weeks short of his eighth birthday, hope dawned for democracy after 36 years of dictatorship. At the same time there were widespread fears that the spark of the bloody civil war of 1936-39, which brought the old soldier to power, might somehow be rekindled.

Schools did not open that day. There were few persons on the streets. There was an air of uneasy expectancy. Power was to be passed to a man whose ability to rule was at best a mystery, the then Prince Juan Carlos, Franco's personal choice as his successor.

Thus Spain began one of the most remarkable transitions in history, dismantling an authoritarian system and installing a democratic one in its place, with no bloodshed other than a persistent wave of terrorist violence which had its origins in the Franco era.

In his latter years, the generalissimo had assured his supporters that everything relating to the continuation of his regime was "knotted and well knotted".

Yet the granite slab weighing a ton and a half was not even in place over his coffin at his mausoleum in the Valley of the Fallen before his successor promised to foment "ever more real and effective participation" of the people in the decision-making bodies and to recognize "those social and economic rights whose purpose is to ensure to all Spaniards the material conditions that will permit the effective exercise of all their liberties".

Today the transition is still incomplete. There are possibly as many as 200 Basque activists in prison, in police custody or awaiting trial. Journalists are still occasionally tried for the publication of reports which denigrate the authorities. Spain still has no divorce law. There are still well-founded suspicions of torture by police, and a great deal of day-to-day governing is still done by decree.

Yet the country has come a long way, and it seems to have accomplished the almost impossible task of reconciling

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Yet the country has come a long way, and it seems to have accomplished the almost impossible task of reconciling

'Terrorist' held after Zurich raid

From Our Correspondent

Rolf Klemens Wagner, alleged to be one of Germany's most-wanted terrorists, was arrested in Zurich today after a bank robbery in which a woman pedestrian was killed and two policemen were injured.

Four men held up the Swiss Volksbank soon after it opened, taking away with them 47,000 Swiss francs (£133,000). Alarmed by the robbery, police were alerted and they ran from the bank into a passage leading to an underground shopping centre.

In the shooting, a woman was killed and another injured. One policeman was shot in the abdomen and a second one in the arm.

Herr Wagner was arrested as he sat quietly waiting for a tram. A former law student, he is allegedly associated with the "Red Army". Some of the money was found in a car abandoned by the raiders.

Slowdown in the growth of crime in France

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 19

The growth of the crime rate in France is slowing down, according to figures released by the Statistical Section of the police. The 1978 figures show that there has been an increase in the total number of reported crimes of just 2.38 per cent since 1977.

This is largely due to the fact that petty criminals seem to have slowed down their "growth rate" since the early 1970s, whereas major crimes from rape to murder, kidnapping and drug-trafficking are becoming more common. The major crimes represented only 1.68 per cent of the crimes reported during the year, but they accounted for 38.4 per cent of the cost of crime.

Offences involving drugs are growing almost faster than those in any other area, with arrests up by 102.4 per cent on 1977. Of the 506 arrests last year, 316 were of foreigners, showing that France is being used as a distribution centre.

In what seems to be an attempt to halt this trend, the court in Draughton last week imposed very severe sentences on a West German drug ring in which Maria Christina von Opel, heiress of the car manufacturing firm, played a leading role.

Flooding foreshadows bad winter ahead for Venice

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Nov 19

The centre of Venice was flooded today for the fifth consecutive day, the longest period ever recorded. Flooding was declared when the water reached 31in above sea level. Today it was 41in above sea level, which was below its high point of 49in recorded yesterday.

Professor Giordani Soika, the director of the municipality's tidal warning service, said that flooding of such length "has no precedent" and there was no trace of it even in the oldest records. He ascribed it to a combination of high tides and an unusually long period of low meteorological pressure, bringing a storm wind which blows the waters of the Adriatic into the lagoon.

The trough of low pressure has caused storms in many parts of Italy but is gradually moving away and the situation in Venice is expected to return to normal in two or three days.

An intimation that the city was in for a bad winter came from an unusually early flooding of just under 52in on September 24. This is still well below the 76in reached in the disastrous flood of November 4, 1966, when the city's survival was threatened.

It is a reminder, however, of the high-minded manner in which the Government has approached the problem of

ensuring that Venice will not one day sink into the sea.

Five consortia, including some of the best known Italian civil engineering and construction firms, responded in December, 1976, to a call from the Government for proposals to protect Venice and its lagoon from floods. These proposals were based on schemes to close the entrances into the lagoon temporarily during periods of high waters.

But last December the Government rejected all five solutions as inadequate. Signor Gaetano Stannoni, who was then Minister of Public Works, promised to set up a commission to review the situation and report back within four months. But the formation of the commission was never announced, and since then the Government appears to have lost interest.

Train derailed: Severe flooding after heavy rains in northern Greece put out of operation a hydro-electric power station, swept away part of the Athens-Salonika road, and caused a train to be derailed near Larisa, cutting off the country's main railway line for more than 12 hours. No casualties were reported so far.

A state of emergency was proclaimed in Thessaly and Macedonia, two densely-populated districts of western Macedonia where the rainstorm damaged agricultural production, flooded hundreds of homes, and caused several road and railway bridges to collapse.

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US 'plans nerve gas weapons in Europe'

Moscow, Nov 19.—The

Pentagon is proposing deployment of chemical weapons throughout Western Europe as well as an arsenal of nuclear weapons, according to sources.

"The military agencies of the United States are pressing for the implementation of a long-drafted programme for the manufacture of improved types of chemical weapons in the hope of using them in the event of a Soviet invasion," the newspaper's Washington correspondent wrote.

They are talking specifically of a programme for the manufacture of chemical weapons, which are to replace in the United States Army arsenal the existing stocks of chemical weapons.

Pravda called the proposals a "sinister present to the European allies" and said that the project was "included in the draft programme for 1981-1984—U.S.A."

Patriotic Front guerrillas, from South Africa, who are in the court in Draughton last week imposed very severe sentences on a West German drug ring in which Maria Christina von Opel, heiress of the car manufacturing firm, played a leading role.

tions on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles to begin as soon as possible, Government sources said.

In a letter to the Soviet leader, as yet unpublished, the Pentagon proposed on measures to diminish East-West mistrust.

He was apparently referring partly to a recent West German proposal for a preliminary reduction of troops, talks place without waiting for a solution to the deadlock in the Vienna forces reduction talks over how many Soviet troops are actually deployed in East Europe.

The chancellor was replying to Mr. Brezhnev's offer to reduce the number of Soviet SS20 missiles in the western Soviet Union if Nato abandoned its plan to introduce Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in West Europe. The Soviet offer was accompanied by an increase in the number of Soviet SS20 missiles in the western Soviet Union if Nato abandoned its plan to introduce Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in West Europe.

Mr. Schmidt, however, merely emphasises that the Nato plan and the simultaneous Soviet offer of arms limitation

negotiations, both due to be approved by the Nato Council in December, have equal priority.

Meanwhile, high-ranking sources in the British Rhine Army said that Mr. Brezhnev's offer to draw back SS20s was strategically almost meaningless because the weapons would still be within range of West Europe from anywhere but a fairly small area in the eastern Soviet Union.

Mr. Brezhnev's offer to withdraw 20,000 men and 1,000 tanks would make up difference either, they said, because the tanks involved would probably be the outdated T55s which have been replaced by more modern T62s but which, as far as is known, have not yet been removed from the area.

The reduction by 20,000 of the Soviet Union's 400,000 men stationed in East Europe, they suggested, could dispense the fact that the Soviet Army may soon be forced to reduce its numbers because a decrease in the population is expected to bring a drop in the number of young recruits.

1979/11/20

OVERSEAS

Bomb-in-bus
explosions
injure 13 in
Jerusalem

Thirteen people waiting to board a bus in Jerusalem were injured when a bomb exploded in the bus. The driver of the bus escaped injury while trying to drive to safety after a bomb had been discovered and the passengers evacuated.

Security authorities here said the renewed spirit of terrorism today was apparently timed to mark the second anniversary of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem which started the Middle East peace process.

In another terrorist engagement an Israeli navy patrol boat prevented a landing on the Mediterranean shore killing two rescuers and capturing two others three miles off the coast of Achziv.

The commander of the patrol boat said the four terrorists had set out in their submersible from the region of Tyre in Southern Lebanon and appeared to be headed towards the coast between Achziv and Nahariya in Northern Israel.

The patrol boat which spotted the submersible and fired the first shot with its five-barrelled machine gun, sank the craft and captured two survivors.

Additional search craft spotted remnants of the wreckage with two survivors.

President Sadat brings a theatrical touch to hand-over ceremony held in desert near Mount Sinai

From Christopher Walker, Mount Sinai, Nov 19

In a ceremony heavy with religious symbolism but curiously lacking in diplomatic substance, President Sadat today chose this remote biblical location to mark the second anniversary of his historic visit to Jerusalem.

Making no mention of the mounting difficulties facing the peace process agreed at Camp David, the Egyptian leader spoke only in general terms about the need for world peace and the success of moves already made in the Middle East.

He said nothing about the lack of progress in the Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

Before a bizarrely mixed audience which included Buddhist monks from Japan, Bedouin tribesmen, on camels, senior American diplomats and the Pope's representative, President Sadat hoisted the Egyptian flag on a section of Sinai handed back two months earlier by Israel.

In keeping with his reputation for theatricality, Mr Sadat performed the ceremony on the plain where the Israelites are said to have pitched their tents while Moses climbed Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments.

Immaculately dressed in a French-cut suit, Mr Sadat stood proudly to attention as the Egyptian flag fluttered on a spot where it had not been seen since 1957.

"Today peace has already become a shining reality," Mr Sadat claimed confidently. "It should be completed and followed up, after having been deeply engraved in the conscience of several peoples and having become an integral part of their common spiritual and cultural heritage. No one can reverse it at all."

A personal telephone call inviting Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, to attend the ceremonies had already drawn a negative response from Jerusalem, where there has been some right-wing criticism about the early hand-over of sections of the Sinai.

The only Israeli representative permitted to attend today was an efficient but junior woman official from the Government's information office.

Before his speech, Mr Sadat fulfilled a deeply-held personal ambition by taking part in a short service on prayer-mats laid out in the shadow of the granite butte of Mount Sinai, a site joined by a number of prominent Jews from Egypt and members of the Christian Coptic Church.

But Mr Sadat's widely-publicized plan to lay the cornerstone of a triple shrine on top of the 7,500ft mountain, to be shared by Muslims, Christians and Jews, had been inexplicably shelved. The plan has been criticised in some circles for being ostentatious.

Another grandiose scheme by Mr Sadat to mark the anniversary was also postponed: an outdoor show-business spectacular to be performed at the base of the holy mountain and organised by Roger Vadim, the French film director.

In the blistering heat of the valley below there are already clear signs of the return to Egyptian rule which took place officially last Thursday. All Hebrews have been hastily blacked out from road signs and the notice boards on the scattered water-wells.

However, a small team of Israeli technicians was still to be found this morning working down the newly regained Egyptian soil. They had been requested by the Government in Cairo to handle all communications for the ceremony, including the complex arrangements needed for the Sinai's portable hotline telephone.

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FBI agents
blamed for
Jean Seberg
suicide

By Penny Symon

A former employee of the United States Department of Justice has named four Federal Bureau of Investigation agents alleging that they contributed to the suicide of Miss Jean Seberg, the American actress who was found dead in her car in Paris in September.

The FBI admitted soon after Miss Seberg's death that in 1970 its agents spread gossip that she had become pregnant by a leading member of the Black Panther party. It had tried to discredit her because she had supported the black nationalist cause.

The false story, which was given to a Los Angeles newspaper and subsequently printed in its gossip column, was distributed by the FBI as part of its counter-intelligence programme known as Cointelpro.

The FBI has released a document which showed that permission to smear Miss Seberg was requested on April 27, 1970, in order to tarnish her image. On May 6, the FBI, then under the direction of Mr J. Edgar Hoover, requested that two months should go by before the story was released, in order that Miss Seberg's pregnancy would be obvious.

Miss Seberg was seven months pregnant when she read the article in the Los Angeles Times which did not name her directly, and a subsequent one in Newsweek magazine which did. She was shocked, and went into labour. The baby was born dead.

At a news conference in Paris just after her suicide, Mr Louis Gary, the French writer, who was her husband in 1970, said that the baby was his.

According to M Gary, she attempted suicide every year near the time of the anniversary of the baby's death. Other friends claimed that the loss of the baby was the beginning of serious emotional problems for Miss Seberg, and she underwent treatment in psychiatric institutions on a number of occasions.

The former employee of the Department of Justice has passed the information to the National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice, an organisation sponsored by the Church of Scientology.

The commission has written to Mr Philip Heymann, the United States Deputy Attorney General, demanding that the names of the agents involved should be verified; an investigation had not been initiated, it said, and prosecution should follow.



The first American hostages to be freed from the occupied embassy in Tehran—Marine Sergeant Laddell Maples (left), Sergeant William Quarles and Miss Kathy Gross—arriving in Copenhagen.

Saudi help sought over Iran siege

From Our Correspondent, Jeddah, Nov 19

A special envoy from the United States is here in an unpublicized effort to win Saudi support for Washington over the siege of the American Embassy in Tehran.

Mr Herman Eilert, Ambassador to Cairo until last summer and Ambassador here 10 years ago, held his first meeting with Crown Prince Fahd last night.

However, it is not clear what Saudi Arabia can do. The country is unwilling to risk antagonizing Iran by even so little as offering mediation, and in any case the Iranian collapse has severed all normal contact between Saudi Arabia and Tehran and Qom.

One Saudi minister has already denied that the country would help make up any shortage in American oil supplies arising from President Carter's ban on direct purchases from Iran, but a final decision on this probably has not been made.

Three safe: The first three Americans released by Iranian militants from the American Embassy in Tehran arrived today at a United States Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden, West Germany, to begin the recovery from captivity.

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of Pennsylvania, Sergeant William E. Quarles, aged 23, of Washington, and Corporal Laddell Maples, aged 23, from Arkansas, came in a special DC9 from Copenhagen. Officials said they were going to the hospital for "a period of decompression" and that other hostages who might be released would be flown to the same base.

The three are to be examined by six doctors, including psychiatrists and will be questioned by intelligence officers or State Department personnel. The freed hostages telephoned their families in the United States upon arrival in West Germany. —AP.

Romania finds oil in Black Sea

From Dassa Trevisan, Bucharest, Nov 19

Romanian drilling in the Black Sea has produced some oil, President Ceausescu told the Romanian party congress today. He added that it remained to be seen whether the find was large enough to be commercially exploitable.

With the energy crisis featuring largely in the Romanian economy, his statement brought the audience to its feet in frenzied applause. It was the high-

light of a six-hour speech which opened the congress.

President Ceausescu said that Romania would press on with its independence in foreign affairs while sticking to an orthodox line in home affairs.

The high rate of industrial growth will be maintained and during which time controls, political and cultural, will be kept tight. He called for more discipline, more ideology and more hard work, though some incentives are being offered.

Something resembling limited devolution of responsibility lower down is being set up. It is only in the experimental stage and obviously has a limited scope of extracting greater efficiency.

The presence of foreign representatives illustrated this point. They included the Chinese who are attending the congress for their first time in 15 years. President Ceausescu urged Vietnam and China to settle their differences peacefully.

Islamic anti-Soviet groups feel lack of leader to put an end to feuding

Afghan rebels waiting for their own Ayatollah

From Stephen Taylor, Tawakpindi, Nov 19

A short distance from Peshawar in Pakistan's North-West Frontier province, on the road that runs west to the Khyber Pass and Afghanistan, stands a modest house guarded by two Afghan tribesmen, armed with Kalashnikov automatic rifles.

Inside a group of bearded men wearing silk-embroidered robes sit around a table eating grapes and drinking sweet black tea.

The house is the headquarters of the Afghanistan National Liberation Front, which, its leaders say, is dedicated to bringing down President Hafizullah Amin, driving from the country the Soviet advisers who are propping up his tottering government, and establishing a "democratic Islamic state."

The ANLF is not the only insurgent group with headquarters in Peshawar. Nor is it the only one with those objectives. But 18 months after a Moscow-backed government came to power in Afghanistan and a year after they declared a jihad (holy war) against it, the insurgents are divided by rivalries and ideological differences and have made little progress towards establishing a military "structure" to coordinate the direct activities of the mujahedin (Islamic warriors) in Afghanistan.

A Western diplomat says: "The rebels have a common enemy, religious zeal and the courage. What is lacking in the whole equation is a leader who can pick the thing up by the scruff of the neck and put an end to the feuding."

Dr el-Tabib, a founder mem-

ber of the ANLF, admits: "We lack a Khomenei."

There have been numerous alliances in the past year involving the leaders of the six exile groups in Peshawar but few have lasted more than a matter of weeks. The most recent, called the Islamic Front of Afghanistan (United Islamic Government of Afghanistan), was headed by Dr el-Tabib.

The ANLF of Professor Sigabuddin Mojaddidi, the Jamiat Islamia Afghanistan, led by Professor Burhan Rabbani, the Harakat Inqilabi Islami of Mouvi Muhammad Nuri and a small breakaway group led by Muhammad Yunus Khadiz, which left the alliance three weeks later.

Dr el-Tabib, who like many of the exiled insurgents was educated in Europe at the United States and speaks fluent and articulate English, says the alliance is under no illusions about the difficulties of getting the Russians to withdraw from Afghanistan. "What the rebels can do, he believes, is make the war too costly for them to want to continue with it."

He says the rebels have been in contact with Muslim groups in the south of the Soviet Union and adds that it "may save the war too costly for them to want to continue with it."

Dr el-Tabib says that in the event of a Soviet withdrawal the Islamic Front would form a provisional government while the grounds for an election were prepared and supervised by a council of Islamic countries.

Other parties would be free to submit candidates. We as the ANLF would like other parties

in Pakistan to submit candidates," he says.

At the core of the Pakistan alliance is a long and close personal association between Professor Rabbani and Professor Mojaddidi. Professor Rabbani, a former professor of theology at Kabul University, brought the greater following to the alliance. He once confided to a Western diplomat that he had read and admired Machiavelli's Prince. Professor Mojaddidi is a more remote figure but he too was a powerful mullah in Kabul before the coup.

The weakness of the alliance is that as present it does not include the two rebel leaders who, apart from Professor Rabbani, arguably wield the greatest influence in Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbuddin and Sayed Ghalani.

Engineer Gulbuddin was imprisoned by the former king, Muhammad Zahir Shah, in 1972 for militant Islamic agitation but was freed 18 months later. He has been in exile since 1975 and fought to bring down the Government of President Sardar Muhammad Daoud, which he regarded as corrupt and un-Islamic, as well as the present regime.

His Hizb-Islami is the best organised of the groups and probably has the largest insurgent following.

Sayed Ghalani is a curious paradox among the Islamic fundamentalists who make up the insurgent leaders. A tall, cautious-mannered man who wears a silk Liberty scarf with traditional Afghan dress. He more than any other rebel leader can claim a religious following in Afghanistan. "Sayed"

is a title attached to a descendant of the Prophet and Sayed Ghalani is a much revered figure among the Sunni Afghans in the east of the country.

Rabbani and Ghalani own a flat in London and espouse a moderate, pro-Western philosophy. He has distanced himself from the other groups, particularly Hizb-Islami, because he believes their views are too militantly Islamic.

Speaking through an interpreter, he says: "We appreciate the needs for unity but it must be on common principles. We are opposed to extremism of any kind. We believe in a moderate, modern Afghan state based on nationalism. Some other groups represent a narrow-minded viewpoint. We do not want to replace a red Afghanistan with a black Afghanistan."

The rebels all deny that they are receiving financial support from Muslim states such as Iran and Saudi Arabia. They say that the money they get is being donated by individuals, some of them from those countries. It is widely believed here that funds from the banned right-wing Pakistani party, Jamiat Islamia have found their way to the insurgents.

They say that they have learnt a lesson from the recent government offensive in Pakistan in which they suffered serious reverses and have started a new series of talks to overcome the differences. The Rabbani group is particularly keen to woo Sayed Ghalani to the alliance. Whether he joins or not, a regrouping is likely to be announced in the next few weeks.

A Russian paradise runs to seed on state handouts

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 19

The little village of Verkola in northern Russia could be a paradise. The meadows produce rich and plentiful grass, the scenery rivals that of Finland or Sweden and comfortable new houses have been built for the villagers. But the place is a slum.

The cattle are starving, the grass is uncut, the fields untilled, the roads are rutted, the village is filthy and the workers are indolent.

This devastating picture of life in the Soviet countryside is given in *Pravda*, which printed an open letter of disapproval from one of the disgruntled villagers. The party newspaper dissociated itself from some of his views, but clearly believing the state of affairs to be common enough to write a column in other readers, asked them what should be done.

Verkola is living on government hand-outs. In the past 10 years 100 new houses have been built and equipped with refrigerators, television sets and all modern fittings. The average wage is now 209 roubles (about £150) a month, and dairymaids, shepherds and tractor drivers often get 300 roubles a month, the average agricultural wage.

Tractors combine harvesters and lorries are plentiful. Government allocations to the state farm total some 2m roubles. Yet none of this is justified by increased productivity. The amount of land under cultivation has fallen by 30 hectares. Fewer sheep are raised than before. The yearly milk yield per cow has gone up by only just over a quarter in 15 years.

The author of the letter, Fyodor Abramov, says his little village in the Archangel district is drowning in luxuriant grass. But it is a rare year that there is enough fodder for the cattle in winter. Last year the cows got only about 4lb of hay a day, and in the spring, fodder had to be imported from the Ukraine because nobody bothered to help cut the grass.

At hay-making time only 41 out of the 117 men in the village went to work in the fields. Even those worked half-heartedly.

Mr Abramov asks whether the villagers have forgotten the habits of generations. "On the contrary, they are working on their private plots from early morning until late at night," Private plots, which are now

officially encouraged, are all very well, he says, but Verkola has a large state farm and lives by this.

In July eight calves died of starvation because there were not enough people to look after them. The herdsmen and the tractor drivers were on their clock with never a day off, but when one was sick there were no replacements.

He suggested giving away some of the cattle to a farm near by, but concluded it would be impossible without handing over pasture land, and that would signal the end of Verkola. It was not a question of mechanization or a shortage of labour. The fault lay in people's attitudes. Nowadays, he said, the villagers could not care about their village.

He said the village had 2,000 haywains full of hay, but left uncultivated. Tractor drivers routinely drove their tractors through fields of wheat. Wages were paid on the basis of mechanization or an assessment of how much work they did — and some have absolutely no conscience.

Mr Abramov complained that even in Tatarstan days the muzhiks never went on holiday during harvest time. But today's "muzhiks" were often away in the summer period. Former pride in neatly ploughed fields and mown meadows had disappeared, as had love for the land. Villagers were lacking self-respect.

He believed Verkola could be a beautiful village. But no one took any care of it. Abandoned dogs bit the children, but nothing was done. Healthy young people stayed in bed until 11 am.

A club built for the village a few years ago was filthy. The local dairy stank so much that people had to hold their noses when passing it.

The 207 pensioners in the village in high proportion and a decline in the demographic problems of many villages) were too busy on their private plots to help with the haymaking on the state farm.

There were good people in Verkola. Mr Abramov said, whose hearts ached when they saw the dying cattle and drunken teenagers. What was needed, he added, were better party officials and farm directors.

THE
CHRISTMAS
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COLLECTION

As a memorial to this year's 200th Derby, the Organising authorities invited Blenheim Fine Arts to publish a number of important and official fine-art limited editions.

The official portfolio of six fine-art prints commemorating the six greatest winners of the Derby since it was first run in 1780. Selected by a distinguished racing committee under the chairmanship of Lord Porchester, the Queen's racing manager, the portfolio includes Ormonde, Bahram, Pinza, Sea Bird, Nijinsky, and Mill Reef. £300 per set.

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DESTRUCTION OF
AN INHERITANCE

Many hundreds of signatures, drawn from both Houses of Parliament, from the Church, the Law, the Services, from Bath Abbey and Kings College and the great Cathedral Centres of Church Music, from members of the Prayer Book Society, from Drama and Literature, from the Principals Fellows Lecturers and Undergraduates of famous Universities, and from the Headmasters of our Schools, have been appended to Petitions to the General Synod of the Church of England urging the retention in the Daily Services of the accustomed 'Authorised Version' of the King James's Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. Current policies and tendencies that decree the loss of both — seeking to reduce them to vestiges lurking in libraries perhaps to be occasionally indulged — are giving rise to deep and wide-spread concern. For centuries these texts have carried forward the inspired simplicity of our language in its early splendour. They contain nothing that cannot be easily and profitably explained. They belong to our continuing story as a people and are powerful reminders of who we are. With them stands or falls much of our musical inheritance also, since the musical wealth of the Churches is linked to the classic texts, and lacking these must be largely lost to us. This is not a matter that concerns only the Churches, and the signatories to the Petition were from a wide field, irrespective of religious belief.

Is it really your wish that we, and our future generations after us, shall now be deprived of the magnificent and accustomed prose of Cranmer's Prayer Book and King James's Bible, hammered out long ago in the white heat of a burning faith and a renaissance that raised the English language to a supremacy in the literature of Europe?

It is really your wish to accept in exchange the uninspired verbiage of a new version such as 'Series 3', now contrived in an attempt to comply with a transient trend that seeks to reduce the English language to a 'lowest common denominator' in the tragically mistaken belief that anything more than the commonplace and meagre vocabulary of daily use is unacceptable to the 'man in the street' and to the young? It has been pushed into the Churches by the Synod on the pretext that the old and the new versions can share the Services between them, but within a year or two, under the constant pressure of the Church Authorities, unless the Public now calls a halt the new substitute, with its chatty journalistic prose, will prevail: in any area it is already difficult to find a local Church that can be attended on a Sunday in the certainty that the 'old' versions will be used. The Synod now maintains that the change facilitates also certain proposed doctrinal amendments, but as a nation we have never attached much significance to man-made doctrine. One hundred Christians at a Church of England Service might well hold almost as many minor variants of their belief, and therein lies the Church's strength. It seems unlikely that they want the Synod's view on minor points of doctrine thrust down their throats — and to pay moreover so high a price for it.

All Members of the Public, and particularly all Members of Parochial Church Councils with whom in the last resort the decision lies, are most urgently invited to send a stamped addressed foolscap envelope to the address below for a reprint of the recent articles in the Daily Telegraph that set out in detail what is happening and why, and what we now can do to prevent a tragic act of destruction. We ask you also to show this announcement to others.

Can you in your conscience deprive succeeding generations of the almost miraculous inspiration and beauty of the Bible and the Prayer Book that for centuries have been part of the life of England? A heritage that is recognised as the finest flower of the English language is being thrown away before our eyes. THE TIME TO FIGHT FOR IT IS NOW.

Inserted by the McLaren Foundation, East Knoyle, Salisbury, Wilts.

Motor rallying

Procession of Escorts broken only by Pond

By Peter Waymark

Hanne Mikola, last year's winner, opened up a four-minute lead in the early stages of the RAC Rally, nearly held her lead last night. They were followed by Russell Brooks, of Bristol. Making their first appearance in the works were the two-handled, the Oscars occupied out of the top seven places these three Britons. Malcolm Clark, twice a previous winner, swung strongly.

Tony Pond, who was four minutes off the pace in last year's Talbot Sunbeam, sped to eighth place in his Daimler. Behind him came Harry Weldon (Vauxhall Chevette), returning the top ten after misadventure.

With the only withdrawal was Sig Bilo, whose Saab Turbo drove home in 12th place. The Kielder Forest special stage of Newcastle, Markku Alen was leading the field. He was followed by the Stratos on the road in Dalby Forest, Shire, and dropped down twenty sixth.

It had fought back to 14th place.

Although conditions were

making surfaces slippery, was little movement among leading positions as crews tiptoed the tough Lake District stages on their way to Chester for the overnight. The final leg will be across the Welsh mountains today.

LEADERS (after 30 special a

Nigeria, Lord Fawcett,

Tennis

Improbable field at Brighton

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
It seems an improbable
to say of Brighton in Novem-
ber but six players who have
Wimbledon championships
playing tennis there this
year. They are: Martina Navratilova,
Chris Evert-Lloyd, Virginia
Sluis, Jean King, who has
won the singles, and two f-
doubles champions, Ann Kiy-
and Betty Stove.

The field also includes Vi-
Rusicki and Mima Jausovec.
In 1978, contested the F-
singles final, won the do-
and also reached the de-

final at Wimbledon. Miss Iwano was the corresponding tournament star, but obviously, she was not the only one to bear heavily to do it again. The Singles' seedings show that in the quarter-final the pairings will be Miss Nana Hanika vs. Miss Kiyomura, Mrs. E. Williams vs. Sylvia Hanika, Miss Wadsworth vs. Miss Rose Wadsworth, and Miss Rose Wadsworth vs. Miss Rose Wadsworth. These days and therefore, regard Brighton almost a local tournament. Hanika, 10 days short of 18, is a former champion of Munich. Last time she caused by beating Diane Frome and Evonne Cawley to reach final of the Italian championship which she was beaten by.

Officially labelled the Da. Challenge, the Brighton event sponsored by a Japanese car

pany. It carries £50,000 in money, of which the singles will take £10,000 and the doubles team a relatively insignificant £3,300. In this respect the award is no better than the usual prize money with entertainment provided.

Unhappy returns: Two players who announced their "retirement" from competitive

tennis at the end of last summer made unsuccessful comeback the first qualifying round, Press Association reports. J. Fayter, from Exeter, ranked in the country, went down 6-3 to Marianne van der L and Corinne Molesworth, Brixham, lost 7-5, 7-6 to a former Wightman Cup player, Veronica Brown of Middle-

First qualifying round—Miss F.
 (Romania) beat Miss M.
 (Netherlands) 6-4, 6-2.
 van der Torre (Netherlands) beat
 J. Fayet 6-3; Miss H. Z.
 Lehner (WG) beat Miss Z.
 (WG) 6-3; Czechoslovakia beat
 S. David 6-2, 6-2; Miss E.
 (Sweden) beat Miss C. Drury.
 7-6; Miss V. Burton beat G.
 worth 7-5, 6-3; Miss L.
 beat Miss M. Pinterova (Czechoslovakia) 6-1; Miss F. Th.
 (France) beat Miss M. N.

beat Miss S. Thompson, 6-3, 6-0.
Miss J. Prager (US) beat Miss
Stewart, 6-2, 5-7, 6-0.
Gervase beat Miss A. Coe, 6-0.
Miss B. Simon (France) beat M.
Sandin (Sweden), 7-5, 1-6, 6-3.
Miss A. Cooper beat Miss D. T.
6-2.

Australian revival: Australian
anxious to make their mark on
international tennis scene.
after five years of continued
defeat. And the struggle to re-

former glory on the courts is backed by the government. Agence France-Presse reports Sydney.

s face

personal and revealing in matters, fails to allow us

One concludes from his constant travelling to functions over the country that McMenamin is obsessed with public speaking and appearances. He seems unable to resist the appeals

legitimate requests for his
turn of phrase. He comp
that recognition can make life
bearable and that on occasi
the only peace he could find
at the wheel of his car.

This readable diary is the host of his remarks about his players and other managers, has a curious relationship to some of his own kind. At one point he accuses the Norwich manager, John Bond, of tal-

drive" but later admits to encouraging him at a time of professional difficulty. Like many people on the public stage, ball managers and players have to be comforted. McMenemy is no exception.

[illegible]

1988

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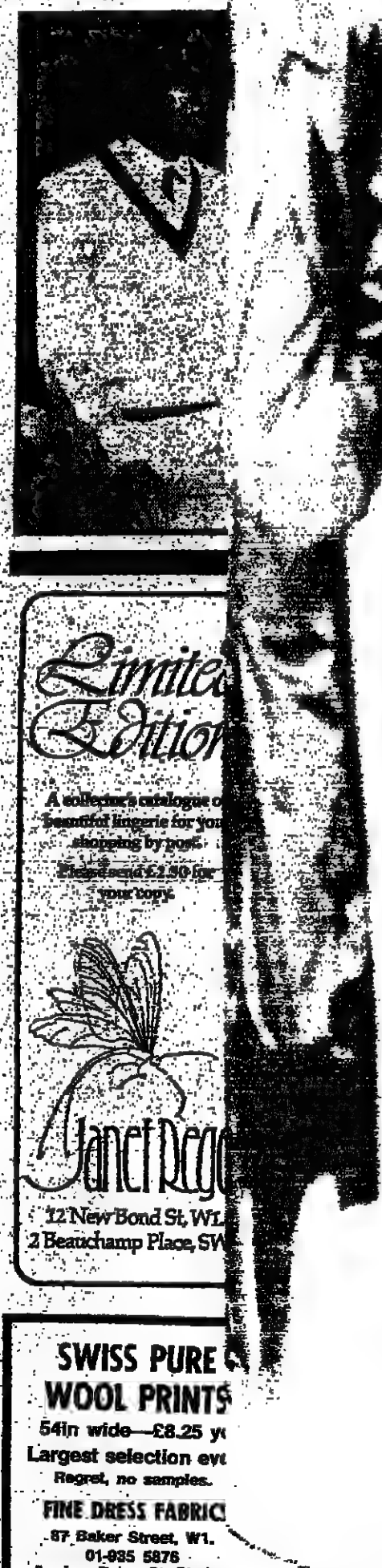


● Above: Jeff Sayre, the man himself, hottest name in men's fashion. Balloon jacket, all American look which is going to be IT when the tourists pour in next year.

● Above right: The sportswear look by Jeff Sayre. Big, padded jacket, striped cotton T top, shorts to match the waistcoat. Indicative of a lifestyle.

● Right: The new double breasted jacket. Originated by Hardy Amies, made public at Browns in their new shop at 182 Boulevard St Germain, Paris, or at South Molton Street. Note narrow lapel, low placed buttons.

● Far right: The All England look from Simon Burstein at Browns.



Hardy: perennial

You might think that at the age of 70, and having achieved his name on the handle of a too brush, Hardy Amies might be taking things quietly and polishing up that diabolical forehead drive. You would be wrong. "C'est une pièce signée, Prudence darling," he informed me, waving this bristly baton in a manner worthy of Previn around the quiet splendour of his Savile Row office.

As a matter of fact the carpet was one piece signée as well—an after coffee ability to focus on the floor announced that the pattern, cream on choc brown, read HA. I daresay the teacups had it on as well, certainly the Kay mail order catalogue, to which he is consultant, made good use of his name.

For Hardy Amies is the only British designer to have tapped the crucially lucrative market of licensing your signature. World wide he is the single best known ambassador of British fashion and style and why he has never got the Queens Award for Industry, given his consistent figures, I will never know. He certainly gets mine.

Any really clever designer knows that, properly promoted, long after the vogue of the sketch pad had faded the name can linger on, and on. Of course it is not precisely a hindrance to be the designer who by far best dresses the Queen (pace Hartnell), has never let her frock fly up even on the gustiest tour, and got a busy lady to recognize that Frederick Fox was a better milliner than those manufacturers of pearl-studded tuffs.

On or around today, Hardy Amies is his own man again. After six years with the Debenhams store group, now busily divesting itself of peripheral activities to fight the high street battle (which, believe me, is tough) Hardy took the bold decision that he was *de trop* and, after a whirlwind romance with Lord Chelsea's business interests, he has bought himself back and, together with his sister, who, if I remember rightly, helped at the start of his career, he will transform the whole shebang into a trust; a trust to bene-

fit young designers, who will eventually have the use of his Cotswold barn as a working studio.

What really counts about Hardy Amies is that he influences the mass market. This is in my opinion the only yardstick by which to judge success. Hardy Amies may hold the Royal Warrant; but if you pop into Hepworth for a jacket you too can be aligned to the great, and at no great cost.

There are currently two jacket shapes which matter, and one of them is Hardy's. "It's all based on the blazer. The shoulder is wide, but soft. There are no darts on the front of the jacket. We've worked out how to do the narrow lapel which always, used to be possible only on a single breasted suit, on a double breasted suit, which is the new thing."

Forget the old double breasted shape, where the buttons started wrapping you like a mummy from nipple level down. The new d/b as constructed by the sympathetic Amies (some designers are not you know) gets the first two buttons two inches below the waist. This elongates, slims and generally rejuvenates the silhouette.

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Fashion

Jeff Sayre: the other jacket

The alternative jacket has shoulders the size of an American footballer but instead of slimming immediately over the torso it continues its bulky round. It is very difficult to cut, and the designer who cuts it best is Jeff Sayre.

This large, lugubrious, gingery coloured American in his 35 years old, was born in Los Altos, a small place I take it, in California, and studied genetics at John Hopkins University, which may account for his understanding of the human frame.

He worked for Geoffrey Beene, one of the most famous American menswear designers, took a shot at Montparnasse and, painting, did Aujard's new menswear line, but I best remember him for the stunning clothes on

the sportswear look that he did for Georges Rech.

Like Hardy Amies, he is now his own man, backed by a Dutch-Belgian group called Trencò. Apart from that balloon jacket, which incorporates a cut under the arm reminiscent of Balenciaga, and I should imagine just as expensive to achieve, he is very clever on colours and fabrics. When he said he was going to show me dress clothes, I thought we were into the Fred Astaire bit again, but what he means is a pair of town trousers with a light plum shirt and a light green jacket, all made out of that sort of slightly shiny sateen you used to line curtains with.

He has a sharp eye; discussing the unrealities of Rodeo Drive, the shopping street in Beverly Hills, he remarks that the customers are tanned between their fingers, which makes the tan unreal too.

Sayre was the most talked about designer at the recent SEHM (Salon Habillement Masculin) menswear shows in Paris.

Poll tax one of five options studied as rates replacement

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government is considering a form of poll tax as an alternative to the domestic rating system.

Although its long-term aim is the abolition of domestic rates, the Government is studying five options in reviewing the system. The suggestion of a poll tax emerged recently in the Commons when Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, undertook to consider that as an interim measure rates levied for each household might be changed by basing them on the number of persons on the electoral roll.

This would counter a criticism of the rates that in one house one person has to pay the rates, while next door there might be several wage earners in one family. Other options under consideration are local income tax, local sales tax, a payroll tax, and valuation of a property based on its capital value instead of its notional rental value as at present.

In the more immediate future, the Government is proposing two changes affecting the rating system, which are likely to be included in the forthcoming local government Bill. Having cancelled the revalua-

tion of properties which had been due in 1982, the Government now intends to replace the statutory requirement for rating revaluations with a power for the Secretary of State to determine the date of any future revaluations by Order.

This would be opposed by local authorities as yet another threat to the freedom of local government. As the law stands, a government must obtain the consent of Parliament if it wants to delay a revaluation.

The new proposal means that a revaluation would be undertaken only when the Government wished, and that would mean that the rates would be out of date for a quinquennial revaluation there have been only two since the Second World War.

The Government's other intention is to carry out a partial revaluation, which is likely to mean a revaluation solely of commercial and industrial property. Such a proposal is welcomed by the Rating and Valuation Association, which has submitted a memorandum to Mr Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The association says that shops in the West End of London are now let at eight times the existing 1973 list assessments, providing a direct subsidy to landlords.

Talks fail on farm tenants'

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Talks among farmers about the right to inherit tenanted estates have broken down after two years. The question of tenants' rights to inherit is one of the most bitterly contested in agriculture and the progress of the talks has been kept a closely guarded secret.

A law of 1976 gave the spouses and children of tenant farmers the right for the first time to inherit family holdings in England and Wales when the tenants died. The law overthrew the incontestable right of owners to take over their tenanted farms when the tenants died, irrespective of the wishes of the tenants' descendants.

The Country Landowners' Association claims that the law is reducing the supply of farms for letting. It has been negotiating since 1977 with the National Farmers' Union, which represents tenants as well as owners, about possible changes to the law of 1976.

Ministers have said that they will not sponsor changes until they receive joint recommendations from the association and the union. The union team in the talks has not produced a united view, and the association has decided not to continue waiting for it.

British Isles have world's best helicopter rescue services

By Our Northern Correspondent

The rescue of two injured lifeboatmen by a Royal Navy helicopter crew last weekend has again emphasised the importance of the helicopter services.

Two lifeboats capsized in 30ft waves on their way to help a Danish coaster in distress off Barra Head. Both righted themselves but several members of the crew of the Barra boat were injured and two were lifted off by a Sea King of 819 Squadron from Prestwick, which provides cover in the Clyde area and south-west Scotland.

More British cooperation with the Irish Republic in air-sea rescue is likely since two Sea King helicopters were moved to the Royal Air Force base at Brandy, near Pembroke last month, marking the completion of a £20m re-equipment programme in the RAF's rescue service.

That and developments by civilian firms operating over the North Sea oilfields gives the British Isles the best coastal and mountain rescue cover by helicopter in the world.

RAF and Royal Navy rescue helicopters have frequently operated in, or overflew, the Irish Republic in recent years without the slightest diplomatic or political difficulties arising. The Sea Kings of Brandy have a range of up to 250 miles. The RAF Wessex rescue helicopters based at Valley, in

Anglesey, and the Navy's Wessex and Sea King aircraft at Culdrose in Cornwall are also well placed to assist in crises affecting ships and aircraft off Ireland's western coast.

A number of meetings have been held this year to ensure the smooth running of any rescue operations in the Atlantic that might involve the helicopters refuelling on Irish territory.

Under arrangements made by the 1947 Chicago convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Kingdom accepted responsibility for aircraft in distress in an area stretching half way across the Atlantic to 20 degrees west and including the Shannon flight information region, a funnel for most transatlantic flights approaching Britain. The Irish Government appointed the RAF as its "agent" in that matter.

The RAF's No 202 Squadron consists of a fleet of mark 3 Sea Kings, designed and equipped for rescue work. The aircraft are kept at Lossiemouth, in north-east Scotland, Boulmer, in Northumberland, Collieston, in Norfolk, and Brandy.

Large United States Air Force helicopters are available for civilian rescue from the base at Woodbridge, in Suffolk.

Two firms, British Airways Helicopters and Bristol Helicopters, offer rescue services

over the oilfields. The former, from Aberdeen operated under contract to the Department of Trade for three years, saving 100 lives; it now provides a similar service from Shetland. Since 1978 Bristol, in conjunction with BP, have provided a rescue service in the Forties Field area, east of Aberdeen.

A similar arrangement was made earlier this year between Bristol and Shell to provide cover from the Brent oilfield

Three men stole weather cock

An army officer and two friends were each fined 50 by York magistrates yesterday after being found guilty of stealing a weather cock from St Michael's Church tower in the city. They said it was a prank. They are Lieutenant Christopher Hirst, aged 21, of The Royal Tank Regiment; Charles Town, a student of Elmfield Avenue, York; and Paul Widdicombe, an assistant shop manager, of Huntington, Yorkshire.

Church's new role

A grant of £21,000 by the Cambridgeshire social services department will help to convert the nineteenth-century Free Church at St Ives to a community centre. The building will still be used for worship.

BBC plans brighter afternoons

By Kenneth Gossling
Arts Reporter

The BBC plans to introduce general entertainment television programmes in the afternoon. Proposals are expected to be given to the Home Office within the next fortnight.

The proposals, which cover the corporation's spending plans for the next decade, divided into two five-year periods, show limited expansion and an emphasis on consolidation. They will be made public.

The independent television strike pinpointed a deficiency in the BBC's afternoon programme. Apart from sport and broadcasts for children, the BBC has never screened any general entertainment programmes in the afternoon. It hopes to remedy that problem by having about an hour's programme each afternoon. The programmes will be aimed at attracting housewives and shift workers.

Efforts will also be made to improve existing services by reducing the number of repeats and of imports from the United States.

There is a commitment to programmes in the Welsh language. In general, the BBC will explain to the Government that the emphasis in the 1980s will be less on expansion than on consolidation and re-equipment.

The Government will decide what the licence fee should be, taking into account the projected inflation rate and the BBC's overdraft. The submission of the corporation's detailed financial plans may be delayed until the dust has settled on the latest controversy over BBC television's current affairs coverage of Northern Ireland.

The licence fees of £25 for colour and £10 for monochrome were fixed on November 24 last year and were intended to operate for about twelve months. The BBC had asked for fees to be set for a three-year period.

Moving of City migraine unit 'a disaster'

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The Princess Margaret Migraine Clinic, which is at St Bartholomew's Hospital in the City of London, is to be moved to the neurological department of Charing Cross Hospital, where it will continue under the National Health Service.

The move comes after an announcement by the Migraine Trust, which found most of the money for the unit, that it must close at the end of the year. In 1970 the unit cost £25,000 a year. That has doubled and a £10,000-a-year grant from the Department of Health and Social Security, made three years ago, will not be renewed at the end of the year.

Mr Derek Mullis, director of the trust, said that the move was in the interests of everyone concerned with combating migraine.

But Dr Marcus Wilkinson, a consultant at the clinic, said: "I think this will be a disaster for migraine research, because we were doing more for research into this condition than has ever been done." But it would need someone to provide £50,000 a year for five years to carry on the work.

The success of the unit springs largely from the fact that many City workers who have a migraine attack have been able to go to the clinic, where doctors have made an assessment before the attack is over.

One sufferer, Mrs Patricia Valden, a Surrey housewife, said she was cured at the clinic, and much of its good work would disappear if it became just another responsibility of the NHS.

She has begun a battle to raise money to keep the clinic open where it is.

It would be possible to run the clinic for £35,000 a year if the staff was reduced. Approaches were being made to City livery companies.



● Above: Jeff Sayre's "dressy" look: Sateen jacket, trousers and ciré overcoat.

Tommy Nutter: A clever mix. You can be Elton John, Andrew Lloyd Webber or Tina Turner and you can be dressed by Tommy Nutter, built at around £500 via Kilgour French and Stanbury of 33, Dover Street, W1, or you can get that look in his collections for Austin Reed. Mr Nutter describes the look as "chesty", which, as the thermometer plummets, may seem the more vulnerable, but I am sure he is referring strictly to the shape.

Simon Eastman: Le Style Anglaise. In September Simon Eastman of Browns, South Molton Street, licensed out the name and the menswear collection to a shop in Paris at 182 Boulevard St Germain. Stephen King for Otto Sports Ltd; Flying the Flag. I thought the British group at

SEHM in Paris the best ever, but Stephen King, a product of our art/design state funded system has the nous to know that we do not present ourselves correctly. More on the subject later: for now, claps for a very elegant collection.

Paul Smith: Market Gardening. Paul Smith has a new shop in Covent Garden and his strength is colour. The look is casual—a polo shirt under a gilet, under a cardigan in claret, beige, sage blue.

Sir Frederick Laker: The Greatest Influence on Fashion now. It is my contention that fashion is a reflection of lifestyles. Lifestyles are courageous and the next one we are going to catch is the American, now that he has made it the next Costa Brava.

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Bernard Levin on the affair everyone is talking about

Holy loathing as Mr Tiffen and the constable saw it

Amid all the questions being asked about *Taffaire Blunt* ("Did they tell the Queen?"), "Why didn't they tell Lord Home, or has he simply forgotten that they did?", "Did anybody ever bother to tell Henry Brooke anything?", "Are you surprised?" the most important of all, it seems to me, concerns not Professor Blunt and the security services, or even the constitutional implications. It is about us, and the pretty pass we have come to.

The pretentiousness of the pass may be gauged from two letters in this newspaper last Saturday—already dispatched by Mr David Green's letter yesterday—in which some of Professor Blunt's former students sprang to his defence: their wish to praise their former teacher for his kindness and the quality of his teaching does them nothing but credit.

But it is in the other comments in the two letters that matter for Lord Home, and the room of himself. One of them expresses the writer's "indignation": the news of Professor Blunt's treachery is only "material for sensational journalism", and rightly considered, is only "a minor and ultimately irrelevant aspect of his life".

Can you really not hear passing bells in those words? Is the revelation of Professor Blunt's treason only "material for sensational journalism", or is it not rather material for anger at a man who,

trusted and respected by the highest in the land, betrayed his free country in the interests of one of the most terrible tyrannies the world has ever seen? And is Professor Blunt's treachery "a minor and ultimately irrelevant aspect of his life"? It is certainly irrelevant to the fact that he knows more about Poussin than anybody else alive, but is it really also less important?

But if we can hear knells in the first letter, we should surely hear, in the letter signed by three other former students of Professor Blunt's, the clods of earth rising down upon this nation's coffin. For them, his unmasking as a servingman of death and evil, though it may have some effect "on his reputation with the press" (my italics), has none on his reputation with them; it "in no way diminishes him in our esteem".

In no way? You really do not think any less highly of a man when you discover that he has betrayed his country, which is also your country, in the interests of slave-masters, and tried (quite hard, it seems) to make the rest of us their slaves as well?

To my question, then, how did we reach a time and place in which educated, gifted and distinguished men and women, not themselves traitors or potential ones, do not seem to mind a bit when another

educated, gifted and distinguished man turned out to be thus tainted? What is there in the sulphurous air of our time that for this is what it amounts to—erases for so many the distinction between right and wrong?

Note first that although I describe as "so many" the victims of this moral blindness, they are in fact a very tiny minority, and they are almost all to be found among those who are better educated than the majority. Orwell said of some postmillennial rubbish being propagated in his time (rubbish very similar, incidentally, to the views I am examining) that "You have to be an intellectual to believe that there is no ordinary man could be so stupid", and in that remark there lies an enormously important clue.

Once upon a time, nobody would have had any difficulty in feeling disgust at the revelation of Professor Blunt's treachery. But there are those who live by an enervated reason that owns no master in the soul, and who can find arguments that enable them to claim that the atrocity of the moral sense from which they suffer is in fact a form of rational judgment. To pity Professor Blunt is one thing, and a thing I hope we all do; but to claim that what he was and did is of no significance, and that is provided no reason for holding him in diminished esteem—no, this sug-

gests that somebody has not read the story of Faust lately, and would be wise to do so.

There are people who call their confusion relativism, and assure us that you can't have an omniscient without breaking eggs. Some of them say that what animated Professor Blunt was idealism, or at least misplaced idealism. They are often to be found occupying what I have called the tin thrones of public comment; the BBC, for instance, is full of them. (So, for that matter, is the Church of England.) They tend to begin sentences with "You must admit...". If somebody mentions God in their presence they make a face, and if someone says think the most significant thing about the IRA is its opposition to Northern Ireland's discriminatory policies in the fields of housing and education. They invented the word "counter-productive" to spare themselves the embarrassment of using the already existing word "wrong", and then they forget that it did exist. They say "but" when they should say "yes". They do not read Dostoevsky. Much of the time they feel bored. If they saw a ghost, they would pretend they hadn't.

And they do it all in the name of reason, which only needs a "it" in front of it to bring us back to where we started. Reason, which in that haunting study of murder most foul, Mr Setty and Mr Hume,

describes thus the discovery of the body:

"They sat in the punt together and looked at the great thing held up above the grey waters by the stake, and the constable said to Mr Tiffen, 'There's something wrong here', and Mr Tiffen answered him 'Yes, I think there's something wrong here'. Then the constable said 'It's my opinion this is a murdered body', and Mr Tiffen said, 'Yes, I do think it is a murdered body'."

These comments on a torso which had been found wrapped in a felt and tied up with rope might seem comically obvious, but they were said for a purpose. The constable and Mr Tiffen saw the remains of a human being who had been dispatched without mercy, and they had neither of them ever seen such a thing before, and which they knew that if too many of "parliament" they might be the doom of their kind... murder is so rare an event that there is no widely known formula for expressing the feeling it arouses, and so they had to do what they could for themselves. They did it well enough, for as Mr Tiffen solemnly repeated what the constable had said, "murder was manifest, and as we listened we were moved back

several stages nearer the first and appropriate shock caused by Cain."

The trouble with the people I have been describing, and whose domination of this country's intellectual life has led the four signatories of those letters into the moral morass that engulfs them, is a lack of feeling of "the first and appropriate shock caused by Cain", while a "holy loathing of murder" is a concept unknown to them; they do not condone murder, of course, any more than treason, but they think it is something to be weighed like pounds of butter, and to keep calm about, and to think of "objectively". But he who thinks of murder objectively is himself dead in the most important part of him.

Professor Blunt sold his soul to the Devil, for every one who does so, there are a hundred who only lend theirs to His Satanic Majesty, and boast of their foresight in drawing up the contract to include a clause allowing them to claim it back a day or two later. It is a long time in Hell, as well as in politics, and anyway, as Chesterton said, "The devil is a gentleman, and never keeps his word." Chesterton also said something else: "They twisted even decent sin to shapes not to be named; men were ashamed of honour, but we were not ashamed."

But who now are the "we" who are not ashamed of honour? Well, there is Mr Tiffen, and the constable, who never read New Society in their lives, and who knew that if you call black white and white black you will have done some thing rather worse than causing confusion when you want to be paint Mr Tiffen and the constable should not be forgotten. If only because they may one day save us all. But once upon a time almost all the men and women in position of authority and influence took the same view, and knew that if too many of such things happened, they have been largely replaced by the kind of men and women who on one side of the Atlantic are now gathering to make Mr Edward Kennedy, President of the United States, and on the other are now gathering to say that treason was minor and ultimately irrelevant aspect of Professor Blunt's life, or that although the revelation of his treason may lower his reputation with the press, it in no way diminishes their esteem for him.

"O, my fortunes have corrupted honest men!" cries Antony. It occurs to me that the line would make a most fitting epitaph for our world, if some people have their way, it will be needed quite soon.

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Open doors at the treasure house

Since the bureaucrats were slung out of the Fine Rooms at Somerset House and the rooms themselves were restored—as far as possible—to their eighteenth-century splendour, they have spent most of the year unused, locked up and subject only to the gentle sway of rising damp.

Tomorrow the Duke of Edinburgh is to open an Art Treasures exhibition there, organized by London's leading art dealers. Until December 9 (admission £2.50 including illustrated handbook) the Fine Rooms will be open to the public.

An admirable opportunity is thus provided of seeing the rooms and assessing the merits of the various schemes that have been put forward for their long-term use. It is also pure pleasure to see the rooms decked out with treasures. For the dealers have really put their hearts into providing a show worthy of such architectural magnificence.

The Fine Rooms are on two floors of that wing of Somerset House which faces the Strand. They are on the second and third floors, in fact, up a spiral staircase whose steps have been cause of exasperation and humour ever since its construction in the eighteenth century.

George III commissioned the architect William Chambers to design the present building. The old palace had been forfeit to the Crown in 1552, with the removal of the Royal Family to Buckingham House, the site was given over to government offices. However, the Strand wing was to house societies enjoying the special patronage of the King, the Royal Academy of Arts, the



"Rinaldo and Armida" by Benjamin West, the second President of the Royal Academy, which will be on show.

Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries.

The present exhibition uses the two rooms at the top of the building with overhead lighting, the Royal Academy's exhibition room and the painting school. Then, on the next floor down, it uses the whole sweep of Fine Rooms: the Royal Academy ante-room or library, the Antique Academy (for drawing from antique sculpture or casts), the Royal Academy Assembly Room, the Meeting Room of the Society of Antiquaries, the Meeting Room of the Royal Society and the joint ante-room which served both these societies.

The first thing that becomes clear about these marvellous rooms, perfectly proportioned with their really notable plaster work ceilings and decorations, is that they were not designed for exhibitions. At least, only the Royal Academy Great Room on the third floor was actually designed to serve this purpose. The lighting of the other rooms for exhibition purposes is exceedingly difficult.

Paintings hung opposite the windows reflect the light and become almost invisible; those hung between the windows are invisible because of the con-

trast with the bright window beside them. Those at each end of the rooms must be hung above 7ft fireplaces and can only be viewed from a distance.

The popular suggestion that the rooms should be used in the long term to house the collection of his paintings that Turner bequeathed to the nation seems less attractive in the light of these difficulties. Moreover, the rooms are so definitely late eighteenth century and Neo-Classical, that filling them with the products of a nineteenth century genius would be discordant. The rooms would clash with the art, and the art with the rooms.

The other major competitor for the permanent use of the rooms is the London University who need to find a place to display the superb collection of paintings and drawings bequeathed to the Courtauld Institute by Count Salerni. Again it is questionable how well the rooms are adapted for this: they are very large and to fill the walls only with exhibits would leave a lot of bare space.

The present art dealers' show has none of these problems. They have purposely selected from the nation's leading dealers what will best suit the rooms. Fine furniture fills the large spaces while the accent is on large pictures, rather than small intimate works, which stand up to lighting difficulties.

It is a complete departure as far as trade exhibitions are concerned. There are no individual dealers' stalls; all the items, whatever the source, are displayed as one exhibition—

only from the handlist can you tell who owns what. Loans from museums and the Royal Family—four wonderful life size carved Nubians from Clarence House mingle happily with items for sale.

There is a jewel room—half Victoria and Albert Museum, half trade—a porcelain room, including two magnificent vases belonging to the Queen, furniture in successive rooms carefully matched with pictures of appropriate date.

And the curiosity of the show is the Great Room of the Royal Academy, where the tradition of the Royal Academy summer exhibitions was begun. It is given over to contemporary paintings, as is most proper.

The exhibition underlines how the nature of painting has changed in 200 years. Around the room there still runs "the line". The established Royal Academicians had their works hung below the line, where the public had a good view of them, in the eighteenth century; while the newcomers and aspiring artists had to be content with hanging high up, above the line.

The vast canvases of today, including Bacon, Riley, Giacometti and others, cannot in the main be accommodated below the line. Although only one band of pictures is hung around the room, as opposed to three or four in the eighteenth century, many of them are so large that they are forced to straddle "the line". What would Sir Joshua have said could he have seen them?

Geraldine Norman
Sale room correspondent

Voluntary service: the problems of propping up the welfare state

"Voluntary social service apart from other considerations, saves the country annually a vast amount of public expenditure, and at the present time it is only through a large extension of such voluntary service that the demands for economy and social betterment can both be met."

That highly topical observation was made in the first annual report of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) which celebrates its 60th birthday today with a day exhibition on the work, interests and role of voluntary organisations which will be opened by the Queen.

In fact, the NCSS is somewhat embarrassed that its efforts to underline the importance of voluntary organisations in Britain in 1979 should have coincided with the Government's reduction of planned public expenditure and the general atmosphere of retrenchment in statutorily provided welfare services.

Its director, Nicholas Hinton is adamant that the voluntary sector should not be seen as providing an alternative Welfare State on the cheap.

Britain has a uniquely strong tradition of voluntary service which has meant, for example, that unlike most other countries in the world, we run our lifeboat service entirely on the basis of voluntary contributions and without government money, and obtain our supplies of blood through the free gift of donors rather than by cash payments.

The Wolfenden report on voluntary organisations in 1977 estimated that, in the field of social and environmental services alone, five million people undertake some voluntary work during the year and that about 15 million hours are worked every week.

On the basis of these figures, the work done by volunteers in these fields is the equivalent of using 400,000 full-time staff, exactly double the number who are employed full-time in the statutory social services.

Voluntary organisations are, of course, an exceedingly heterogeneous collection of bodies. They range from the "big battalions" like the National Trust, with an annual income of £16m, the Brownies

and Girl Guides with a membership of 750,000, and Dr Barnardo's homes with a full-time staff of 1,000, to small local self-help groups, co-operatives and tenants' associations with incomes of less than £100 and a handful of members.

During its 60 years of existence, the NCSS has spawned several voluntary organisations and which are now household names, including the Youth, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Royal Voluntary Service, the Age Concern. As the central coordinating and advisory body for all voluntary organisations in Britain (a role which as from next year will be more clearly reflected in its name which is to change to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations), it has assisted in the great post-war development both of local voluntary service stimulated by the setting-up of councils of voluntary service and volunteer bureaux and of community service by young people concerned with social problems.

It has also seen in the past 20 years a change in the style of voluntary organisations from directly charitable and religious bodies to groups like Gingerbread (for one-parent families) and pressure groups like Shelter and the Child Poverty Action Group.

Although regular and vital services like Meals on Wheels, provided by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, still provide the backbone of the voluntary sector's contribution to social welfare in Britain, there are two likely areas of particular development in the 1980s. The first is in the regeneration of inner cities, and the tackling of unemployment.

More than 35 per cent of the scheme for the last government's job creation programme was sponsored by the voluntary sector. Earlier this year the Merseyside Council of Voluntary Services began an "imaginative" scheme enabling people to exchange their time and skills as an alternative to conventional employment.

The other area where there is likely to be an increasing action by voluntary groups is in regenerating rural communities. A report published under the auspices of the NCSS last year highlighted the disappearance of shops, transport links

and other services from many villages.

Several schemes are now under way to revive village life, including the setting-up of co-operative shops to bulk buy and sell essential provisions by villagers in Oxfordshire and Devon, and the establishment of "cap chapters" and "village societies" in which there are 26 in Shropshire alone.

Although voluntary organisations show plenty of signs of initiative and vitality there are a number of problems already facing the voluntary sector which threaten to loom larger as we enter a decade in which they must inevitably shoulder a greater burden of provision in the field of social welfare.

The first is the difficulty, reported by a wide variety of voluntary bodies, in finding many active recruits now as they did a few years ago. This has been particularly noticeable among young people, where the number of volunteers doing community service has fallen from both schools and universities has dropped significantly.

Voluntary organisations are also worried that the increasing tendency for women to go out to work is also depriving them of what have traditionally been their best workers.

Curiously, these tendencies in society have not led to a fall-off in the amount of money that people give to the voluntary organisations and what is worrying some people in the voluntary sector is not the overall level of finance but the increasing amount which is coming from central and local government. Although overall this amounts to only 11 per cent of income, in the case of some individual organisations it is as high as 80 per cent. There is a general feeling that this level of dependence on the state is undesirable and threatens the very voluntary nature of parts of the movement.

The NCSS hopes to counter this tendency by lobbying the Government to encourage a more sympathetic approach to new tax concessions for individuals and companies giving to charity.

Perhaps the greatest danger facing voluntary organisations at a time of severe restraints on public spending is that they will become a political football.

Relations between volunteer and public service workers unions, a newly very happy because openly hostile during the hospital workers' strikes of last winter.

One of the most delicate tasks facing the voluntary sector now is the revision of the guidelines which were drawn up under the auspices of the national Volunteer Centre in 1975 to cover the relations between volunteers and paid professional workers.

Statements by leading Conservative Members of Parliament over statutory supplied services together with the Government's overall philosophy of encouraging self-help and rolling back the frontiers of the state have revived traditional hostility towards the voluntary sector by the Labour Party and trade union movement and led to fears that it will be seen as a substitute for the welfare state and as a weapon to break public sector workers' strikes.

Somewhat ironically has provided a stimulus for a re-examination of the philosophy and practice of voluntarism. In Ken's disturbed children who would otherwise have languished in impersonal state residential institutions have been fostered out with families and neighbours have been paid to do chores and run errands for old people who would otherwise have to occupy a hospital bed or a place in a residential home.

Other local authorities are experimenting with similar schemes to use the community rather than institutions to look after the old, the sick, and the deprived. If these attempts to use the voluntary spirit succeed, it will not only be the Exchequer that has gained.

In the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Vincent Square, London, S.W.1.

Ian Bradley

A transposition error in Fred Emery's column on Saturday attributed to Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, a remark he did not make. The correct passage read: "Cabinet ministers outside the Treasury circle—a group having its own philosophy. Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary, told us in a speech last week admit they have no effective counter argument."

Santa Claus.



AND Father, Mother, Uncle and Aunt to over 80,000 neglected men, women and children in our care this Christmas.

To help these needy people we desperately need your help. For God's sake, show you care.

I care £ Name Address

Send to: The Salvation Army, 101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EP.

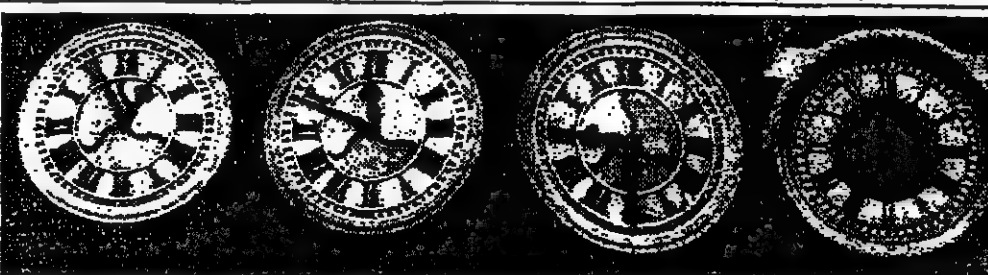
A birthday medal for Putney Bridge

Putney Bridge, one of London's best known, thanks to the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, is 250 years old on Thursday. Sceptics who feel it looks remarkably young for such venerability are quite right: the present structure was opened in 1896 and is the second to link Putney with Fulham.

The original bridge was made of wood, had 36 openings, took only eight months to build at a cost of £23,084 14s 1d (twice the original estimate) and was opened to traffic amid great jollifications on November 22, 1729. There was a lot to celebrate: Putney Bridge was the first built across the Thames on the entire stretch between London and Kingston bridges.

The present structure was designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette and built at a cost of £240,433 19s 0d. The graceful five-arched bridge was widened by 30ft in 1933 without damage to its aesthetic appeal. The builders simply removed the imposing granite facing on the downstream side, completed their work and replaced the original stone.

An enterprising Putney (the place is listed as "Putney" in Domesday Book). Mr Michael Bull, persuaded the Tower Mint to produce a medal to mark the anniversary. He got the idea while



Now that we habitués of north London have once again adjusted to the annual change from BST to GMT, we still find that British Rail Time as followed by the clocks over King's Cross station recognises no known time zone. The King's Cross clock tower has three faces (the fourth is blank). These pictures were all taken around 1235 Greenwich Mean Time, hereinafter

walking across the bridge to his antique shop in Fulham Road.

The medallion shows the old bridge on one side and the present one on the other, has a diameter of 1 1/2 inches and is available in bronze or a limited silver edition of 300. Proceeds will go towards the reconstruction of St Mary's, Putney, parish church, damaged by fire in 1973.

Advice for a president

A man who is convinced he has the answer to the world's ills, the American President, paused in London on his way to the Cambridge Union Society long enough the other day to tell me his ideas for

changing the United States Constitution.

He is better qualified than most observers to identify the problems associated with the most powerful office in the free world: he is Mr Jack Valent, who was special assistant to the late President Lyndon Johnson from 1963 to 1966.

Now he is himself a president of sorts, travelling the world in his capacity as president of the Motion Picture Association of America and of the Association of Motion Pictures and Television Producers.

Bolled down to its essentials, his remedy comes in three parts. First, he believes the President should devote most of his time to tackling the truly great issues, of which he

Why the emphasis on television? Because people simply don't understand the great problems.

"The American Presidency in Transition" was the theme of his talk in Cambridge. It is also the theme of his latest book, which he hopes to see published next summer.

Frustration

I encountered the following adventures in a so far unsuccessful attempt to persuade somebody in London to repair my German washing machine.

The device in question has given many years of unexceptionable service but is now exhibiting undeniable signs of age. It was manufactured by a company called Bauknecht, which used to be listed in the London telephone directory under that name.

On failing to find any such entry in the current book, I had a modest inquiry made by telephone. The German chamber of industry and commerce in the United Kingdom.

It was from there that I learned that the firm is now called Bauknecht (ger it?). Bauknecht Ltd, and I was given a London number. After getting the "unbelievable" tone several times, I contacted the Post Office, who told me this was a spare line.

I looked under Bauknecht in the telephone book and found the same number. Eventually Directory inquiries came up with a new page. I tried to ring this number about 50 times over the next

Gerald knew; but then, of course, he didn't in the cabinet...



three days (it is astonishing how many nuances there are in the engaged signal). At the not-unreasonable hour of 3.55 pm on the third day, the number actually rang out. An answering machine asked me to call the next day during the unimpressive office hours of 9.15 am to 4.45 pm. The machine did not invite me to leave a message, which is probably a good thing. I thereupon gave up and decided to send them a letter.

Dan van der Vat



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

SLAM'S NEW CENTURY

The year 1400 of the Muslim calendar begins today. It is a slender dated not from the birth of Muhammad, nor from a time when the Koran began to be revealed to him, but from a year when he migrated from Mecca to Medina. In Mecca he had been the leader of a sect, and the revelations he received were essentially of a theological nature. He came to Medina at the invitation of a substantial body of citizens who had found themselves at once in the position of ruler of a community, and embryo state.

Islam thus reckons its years not from its revelation as a truth rather than from its birth as a community, the *umma*. No wonder, then, that the attempts made by a variety of rulers, during the fourteenth century, to exclude Islam from the domain of politics and confine it to that of the spirit have by and large been unsuccessful; or at the closing years of the century, a spectacular affirmation of Islam's claim to political primacy.

Islam means surrender, and a Muslim is one who has surrendered himself to God. But that usually understood not in a mystical sense, nor in a sense of sacrificing one's hopes in this world for those in the next; but in the sense of making oneself an instrument for the salvation of God's kingdom on earth. A Muslim society, in most Muslims conceive it, could be one ruled by God and by man: the role of man is to implement, and if necessary enforce, the divine law. If Islam is not the governing principle of the state, the state is not a Muslim one; and if the citizens are true Muslims they will aspire to change it.

Most Muslims, therefore, will regard the health of Islam as it completes its fourteenth century not merely in terms of its spiritual content but in terms of its fortunes as a community, a civilisation—though of course they would see the two as being very closely related. As they effect on the present state of the world their feelings are bound to be mixed. On the

whole they will find more reasons for optimism than a Christian would. The century that has passed has seen the world of Islam touch bottom in terms of its humiliation and domination by the technical, military and political superiority of the Christian or post-Christian West. The formal colonial rule that was imposed on many parts of the Muslim world has come to an end. Economic dependence on the West has not, but at least some Muslim states have found themselves in possession of an economic resource which the West very badly needs: a large extent they have succeeded in taking control of its production, and while they do not yet exactly control its distribution they are now in a very strong position in a seller's market, so that one may say that dependence between them and the West is mutual rather than one-way. A revolution, carried out in the name of Islam in a locally placed oil-producing state, has brought this fact home to the West in acute and dramatic form.

The culture and values of the Muslim world have not, of course, survived the Western onslaught undamaged. But they have shown themselves stronger than any other non-Western tradition subjected to the same onslaught. Shaken and dazzled as they have been by the West's technical expertise, Muslims have not lost confidence in the superiority of their own religion. Moreover, there has been a Christian missionary effort been so spectacularly unsuccessful. Muslims seem very confident that what Christianity can offer them they already have, and indeed the God of the Jews, Christians and of Islam is the same God. Marxism has made somewhat greater but still very limited inroads. More common has been a subtle Westernisation of life style and thought processes, unaccompanied by any formal renunciation of Islam but displacing it as the guiding set of values. On the political level, this has most often taken the form of a secular nationalist ideology.

Nationalism of this sort was the successor to colonialism in

many Muslim countries, but seems now to be on the decline. Partly its glamour has worn off simply from being in power, and from being unable to deliver the material benefits which independence seemed to promise. But partly also it is the victim of an internal contradiction. It claims to combat a Western influence of which it is itself the product. If the identity of a Muslim people is to be fully reasserted, then surely one cannot be satisfied with a secular nation-state. The Islamic polity ruled by divine law must be recreated.

Can this be done? Not if it means that a model must be created which will command the assent of Muslims everywhere. The rulings given by Muhammad, or through Muhammad, in Medina fourteen centuries ago may now command general assent. At the time they were highly controversial, which was why they needed divine authority. No Muslim leader today can claim without blasphemy to be the direct recipient of divine revelation as Muhammad did. He has to interpret the law, and inevitably his interpretations will be open to dispute.

So the moment of triumph for Islam is also the moment of danger, because it is the moment of truth. Many Muslims rejoiced to see an Islamic revolution in Iran, yet do not wish their faith to be judged by particular actions or statements of Imam Khomeini which they find hard to defend.

To criticise Islam on the basis of such actions and statements is easy enough. But it would be a pity if the West's reaction stopped there. We ourselves, after all, are obscurely feeling the need to rediscover the spiritual roots of our own culture, and the divine sanction by which human beings hold authority over each other. It is that which Pope John Paul II has touched such a deep chord? Neither we nor the Muslims have yet found the ideal relationship between the spiritual and the temporal. It would be well if we could recognize each other as brothers, exploring different roads in a common quest.

responsibility for making the inquiries on the prosecution, one of the interested parties. If vetting of potential jurors is to be allowed at all—and the circumstances in which it should be permitted must be extremely narrow—it should be for the court, through one of its officials, to carry out the investigations and the results should not be made known to either side.

One other breach of the principle of randomness is justified. It is clear that a significant number of jurors do not comprehend the nature of the issue they are being asked to try. This has nothing to do with their being prejudiced one way or the other. It does not reflect on their good faith. What it does mean is that they cannot fulfil the basic task expected of a juror—to reach a verdict on the evidence presented in the course of the trial. The difficulty is at its most obvious where that evidence includes documents which a jury is expected to take into account in coming to its decision. Even where there are no documents, in increasing proportion of trials require a reasonable level of comprehension on the part of jurors. It should not be too difficult to devise a simple test of a juror's basic literacy and comprehension, failure of which would disqualify him from serving.

NEARLY RANDOM JURIES

Mr Alfred Dub's proposed Bill to abolish jury vetting, which is today attempting to seek leave to introduce under the ten minute rule, has the virtue of simplicity. It would stop both the prosecution and the defence from prior inspection of the panel from which jurors are chosen, and make it illegal for either side to make any back-ground inquiries of potential jurors. The issues raised by the controversy over jury vetting are, however, more complicated than Mr Dub's effort suggests. There are four conditions, not necessarily compatible, which the jury system should seek to satisfy: the jury should be chosen at random; jurors with prejudices strong enough to affect their ability to find a true verdict should be excluded; there should be equality between prosecution and defence; and the privacy of potential jurors should not be subject to invasion. The difficulty posed by the existing system is that in order to establish whether or not a potential juror is excessively prejudiced, something has to be known about him, and that information can only be obtained by making inquiries about him. Under the existing combination of law and practice, the prosecution can make inquiries of a jury from official files, such as police records, but the defence has no such facility. On the other hand, the defence

Immigration questions

From Mrs Ann Dummett
Sir, Mr Ronald Butt, in his article of November 15, justifies the locking-up on arrival in this country of a grandmother from Pakistan with the rhetorical question: "How many white grandmothers are likely to try to get into Britain, not on an individual basis but as part of a communal migration?" What on earth does he mean? To what way, physical or social, does a journey by a dishevelled elderly mother to visit her family differ from that of an elderly white lady coming to visit hers? Does Mr Butt envisage hordes of brown grandmothers sweeping across Europe from beyond the Urals to destroy our way of life?

Perhaps he does. He seems to have some very odd ideas all round, for example, that the ethnic minorities in Britain dictate to the majority. How and where are they supposed to have done so? Considering that we have not just an all-white Cabinet but an all-white House of Commons, their means of dictation must be secret and sinister indeed, also oddly ineffective, since no measure of immigration control proposed by any government, Labour or Conservative, since 1962 has been defeated. And when Mr Butt says that no immigration controls have ever allowed to be either made clear or effective, he does not make clear how much harsher they would have to be to satisfy him, presumably far harsher than in the cases reported in the BBC *Panorama* programme that his article attacks. We understand that the Home Office was not prepared to say that any of the cases featured in it

represented a misapplication of policy. One of these cases described the detention of a grandmother from Pakistan on her arrival, others the detention of minors. "I make no comment," says Mr Butt. But would it not be better to comment upon evidence than upon fantasy?

Yours faithfully,
ANN DUMMETT,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44-Theobalds Road,
London, WC1.

Weapons for what?

From The Count de Salis
Sir, I share Mr Paul de Hevesy's horror (November 13) at the prospect of another world war this century but cannot share his view that the total destruction of arms, unless it be universal and simultaneous, offers a complete solution. A historical example taken from the Thirty Years' War may serve as an illustration (see *Cambridge Modern History*, 1907, vol. IV, pp 55 and 56). "The Bündners had been disarmed; but secretly, by night in the upper reaches of their valley, they furnished themselves with formidable clubs, ten feet long, shod with iron and studded with nails. On April 24, 1622, they swept down upon Luzern; killed or drove out the 'Austrians'; pressed them through the gorge at Pelzenbach; attacked Bündners' trenches and drove them into Chur exclaiming: 'Der Bündner sind nicht Menschen sondern Teufel!'" It might be added that the fact that the Bündners were disarmed in

the first place as a result of "religious and political schism" inside their own body, the vicinity of Austria and Milan, the weakness of Venice, the distance of France. Analogies come easily to mind. Before we think of destroying arms we must be ready to defend justice, or satisfy ourselves that it is not threatened; and I for one will rejoice if the defences of Western Europe are sufficiently impressive deterrent to save the trouble of furnishing myself with a "formidable club" when it is too late. The rituals of our fellow Europeans in Budapest, Prague and elsewhere should have taught us that, at least. Yours faithfully,
JOHN DE SALIS,
As from 1 Brick Court,
Temple, E.C.4,
November 13.

Many happy returns

From Mr Maxwell Joseph
Sir, Your reference in the *London Diary* (November 13) to Sir Winston Churchill's purchase of £2,000 worth of Marks and Spencer shares 50 years ago, prompts me to point out that an investment of a similar sum in Grand Metropolitan shares in 1957, only 22 years ago, would today be worth over £2.6m. A record that few, if any other companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange, could equal. Yours faithfully,
MR JOSEPH,
Chairman,
Grand Metropolitan Limited,
1 York Gate,
Regents Park, NW1,
November 13.

Professor Blunt and security

From Mr Raymond Whitney, MP for Wycombe, Conservative

Sir, The Fourth Man, the Fifth Man... will there be a Twentieth Man? It all makes a fascinating story, but we must not carry our righteous indignation too far. The Blunt case is not fiction nor perhaps even history. We are dealing with something which will have a direct bearing on our security forces now and in the future—and never has there been a greater need for those services to be efficient.

As Soviet military superiority over the West builds up, so information on which to base our assessment of Moscow's intentions becomes more indispensable. Collection of intelligence by technological means will not serve this purpose and has even proved inadequate as a method of acquiring the increase of Soviet military hardware. There is clearly another important job for our intelligence services in the Third World, where Soviet and other hostile forces threaten the supply of oil and other raw materials vital to Western economies. The destruction of the United States intelligence capability in recent years means that we cannot rely on the Americans to do this work for us.

One lesson from the tale of the Fourth Man seems largely to have been ignored—the extent of the Soviet operation against this country. Unfitted and fascinated by the revelations of British treachery and incompetence, we are in danger of forgetting those who pulled the strings which made the Cambridge spy dance.

There is every reason to suppose that the Soviet Union and its collaborators are at least as active now as they were in the 1960s: 12,000 Soviet officials are stationed overseas and it is estimated that 40 per cent are likely to be intelligence operatives.

As Prime Minister in 1971, Lord Home expelled 105 Soviet diplomats and ordered for espionage activities but doubtless many replacements have now found their way back. Senator Moynihan has warned that hundreds of thousands of American telephone conversations are intercepted and viewed by the Soviet Union, and it is reasonable to assume that something similar is happening here. It appears that last year British agents assassinated General Markov on Waterloo Bridge.

Even this brief catalogue makes it clear that Britain needs effective security services, both to protect our own necessary secrets, and to provide information to enable our governments to take sensible decisions for our national safety. Certain services, however, must be kept under full democratic control but they are an essential part of the safeguards needed by a free society. Yours sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY,
House of Commons,
November 15.

From Mr Hugh Sykes Davies

Sir, Some of your younger readers may understand better certain aspects of political life in the 1930s than we do. I am sure that the phrases of the period which well represented its complexities. One is "premature anti-Fascist". It was used after Russia was accepted as an ally in the war against Germany and was a necessary euphemism to describe those who had previously been Communists, and therefore gravely suspect, but who were now manifestly energetic in support of the war.

The other was "the wrong war". It was used by those who were opposed to joining in the war against Germany together with Russia, on the ground that the "right war" would have been one between Germany and Russia, while this country unobtrusively assisted the former.

Fortunately for them, and for all of us, these mature pro-Fascists never had the chance to collaborate with an invader, as did their likes in France and the now occupied parts of Europe. Many of them were, and still are, in positions of wealth and influence, not least in the official forces of law and order. The fact that many of us "premature anti-Fascists" are now distinguished in the world of letters and the arts is a tribute to much that seems to be happening in Russia should not be allowed to obscure the fact that our efforts, 30 years ago, were well and properly directed, in winning the right war and avoiding the wrong one—in the more normal sense of those terms.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH SYKES DAVIES,
Humphrey Rare Corner,
Market Lane,
Cambridge,
November 19.

From Mr Francis King

Sir, Although my political views are at the opposite end of the political spectrum from Mr Anthony Blunt's and although I hardly knew him, I can feel only nausea at the schadenfreude with which, as in the case of the Profumo affair, both press and public have greeted his downfall.

Thousands may be dying daily in the Far East; as accommodation in Rhodesia may at last be at hand; we may be entering one of the worst economic crises in our history; but every paper gives pride of place to his story—even though I should be surprised to learn that his treason has caused more harm to this country than a single miners' or hospital workers' strike.

Shackleton and Nansen

From the Director of the Royal Geographical Society

Sir, I see that you published a letter from Mr Roland Hunford in which he uses the Royal Geographical Society as his address. I want to make it clear that his letter was sent without any authorisation from the Society. He is not on our staff, nor does he serve the RGS in any voluntary way.

In his letter, Mr Hunford asks people to write to him here, but he has made no special arrangement for the Society to be used as a forwarding address for his post. Such a service is normally reserved for

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Increasing fees to overseas students

From the Director of the London School of Economics

Sir, The *Times* (November 16) quoted my expressions of indignation about the Government's policy with respect to overseas students. However, indignation is only the beginning of a necessary debate. Your leader of November 19 begins this debate in moderate terms, though it perhaps neglects one or two crucial aspects of the issue and several possible conclusions. The most important among them is the fact that a change in orientation by overseas students from Britain to other countries, however well it is "monitored", is truly irreversible.

At the London School of Economics, the implications of a policy which forces us to recover more than one third of our total income from overseas students—a "tail order" as you might say—have naturally led to a lively discussion. Many members of staff and students are at present seeking opportunities to argue our case with people who might influence decisions, including members of both Houses of Parliament: others wish to emphasise the strength of our feelings by adding public demonstrations to argument.

All groups are agreed with me that however strong the case for reducing public expenditure may be, and whatever the intention of Government in this particular case may have been, the effect of the policy is one of the destruction of excellence and the severing of international ties. The reason for this is easy to see. Under the new policy, universities are told to charge overseas students a "minimum fee" which varies according to subject (in the case of LSE £2,000); and the same time, there remains a gap between this "minimum" and the "average fee" (in the case of LSE £2,750) by which we are cut for each overseas student. Even the "minimum fee" is higher than many can afford.

If we pressed able to maintain our present numbers of overseas students we would still lose almost 10 per cent of our total income. Does the Government really want us either to abandon our principle of admitting on the basis of academic excellence only and to admit those who can afford it (thus incidentally raising the number of overseas students), or to reduce what we have to offer by cuts in staff and services at the expense of those from home and overseas who continue to come? And incidentally it is not worth pondering the fact that in the face of this alternative, most universities have expressed their deep concern, whereas some public-sector educational institutions have positively welcomed the new policy?

The main arguments against this policy need not be rehearsed again, especially after the clear and impressive letter by the Master of Balliol College to you (November 15). But a number of more practical points are in place:

The language of Common Prayer

From the Bishop of Durham

Sir, I have much sympathy with your distinguished correspondents in their plea for the continued use of the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorized Version of the Bible. It has from the start been the expressed intention of those responsible for the Alternative Service Book that old and new forms should co-exist, and I have myself repeatedly urged that when the new book is published the old should be seen as an addition to, not a replacement for, the Prayer Book.

However, it is one thing to urge parishes, colleges and schools to make a balanced choice from a variety of liturgical and biblical material which is now at their disposal, and another to ensure that they actually use it.

What do your correspondents have in mind? Episcopal heavy-handedness? If their appeal is addressed to the Church at large, and those who actually make decisions about what is done in particular places, the answer to the Synod as a legislative body, I would be happy to endorse it. But I hope they realize the complications.

Our culture has been passing through a long period of radical change, change to which many of the signatories of the original petition have themselves contributed. Now, with so many of the familiar landmarks gone, they serve on one, the continuity of language, and ask the Church to preserve it by instituting itself against the processes of cultural erosion.

I accept that this may indeed be part of the Church's task, a part of special importance to many who prize the old language of Church life. To others, though, the continuity sought for and expressed in the new forms may often be more attractive than the old. The new people, the new-found ability to distinguish the Eucharist, say, from the particular words in which it is celebrated, has come as a spiritual enrichment, and there is understandable resistance to any excessive claims for one kind of language.

The issues of cultural change and continuity are of vital importance in a context far broader than that of the spirit of the old language. I hope your correspondents, and the signatories of the original petition, will see that the problems are shared, not simply between the Church and that we ought to be able to make common cause in trying to tackle them. Yours faithfully,
JOHN DUNELM,
Auckland Castle,
Rishon Auckland,
County Durham,
November 16.

Wasted harvest

From Dr H. Herxheimer

Sir, I am disgusted to read in your *Home News*, (November 15, page 6) that 2,500 tons of apples and pears have been dumped on farms, whilst a few tons have been used as livestock feed, and that farmers have even been paid for the dumping.

Why cannot this valuable harvest be distributed among the needy families who would be only too glad to have it? Are our social authorities incapable of distributing this wealth of ripe fruit which thousands of adults and children in needy families would enjoy?

Yours sincerely,
DR H. HERXHEIMER,
9 Park Crescent, N3,
November 15.

Blacking a musician

From the General Secretary of the Musicians' Union

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr J. Letts, (November 15), must feel himself to be under-occupied or badly in need of advertisement to write at length on the now over-ventilated topic of this union and baroque music.

Only two points require comment, neither of which is his unfounded suggestion that a "vindictive campaign" is being conducted by this union. Mr Letts writes: "We asked the Secretary of the Union to postpone any ruling on the issue..." At least some of the generally ill-founded criticisms of trade unions would be justified if their rules (which have contractual force between the union and its members) could be set aside or varied at the whim of one man. They can be, and

1. There is, to my knowledge, no university in the world which charges students their "average cost". Harvard Business School charges 60 per cent of it, and is clearly on the high side; 60 per cent of "average cost" is not very far from the "minimum fee" suggested by Government. Would it not be appropriate to reconsider the policy at least to the extent of confining cuts to this sum, and thus closing the gap described above, in order to preserve excellence?

2. A high-fee system is academically defensible only if it is coupled with a large number of scholarships. Of course, the news is welcome that £4m will be set aside for research students. But this will help support at the most 5 per cent of all research students in the country. The fund should be increased considerably.

3. Students from developing countries are particularly hard-hit, because their families, in many cases, are not met by increases in the sums made available by their home governments, while at the same time it appears that the number of British Council/Overseas Development Administration studentships will be cut drastically. Is there a more effective form of overseas aid than studentships? Is there not a case for raising the number of such studentships substantially, even if total ODA expenditure cannot be increased?

4. Some groups will, one hopes get special treatment. It is pleasing to hear from your correspondents (November 16), that Government has set aside £5m to compensate universities for lower fees for EEC students. It would indeed be surprising if Government were to make generous political gestures at the expense of universities. This applies also to exchange schemes which should be exempt from the new rules as a matter of principle. Is it really conceivable that Government should sign cultural agreements and then make universities pay for them?

LSE has just completed a successful library appeal to which former students and others from overseas have donated more than £1m. Even before the recent Government measures have begun to set up the LSE 1980s Fund for studentships, and already considerable sums have been promised from overseas sources. Splendid as these contributions are, they will, however, go nowhere near solving the problem.

In the end we must rely on the Government living up to the promise by the distinguished alumnus of LSE, Dr Rhodes Bosson, who said on August 21, 1979: "I do not think the Government should allow the LSE 1980s Fund for studentships, and already considerable sums have been promised from overseas sources. Splendid as these contributions are, they will, however, go nowhere near solving the problem."

Yours faithfully,
RALF DAHRENDORF,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
November 19.

From Mrs E. Keller-Bowman, MP for Lancaster, Conservative

Sir, May I assure you that the Wars of the Roses have not abated whilst you were away, and are about to be rekindled by your item in the *London Diary* of November 13, which states that Carnforth is in Yorkshire. It is I am happy to say, in Lancashire and has every intention of remaining so. Yours faithfully,
ELAINE KELLETT-BOWMAN,
House of Commons.

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ELAINE KELLETT-BOWMAN,
House of Commons.

Wrong rose

From Mrs E. Keller-Bowman, MP for Lancaster, Conservative
Sir, May I assure you that the Wars of the Roses have not abated whilst you were away, and are about to be rekindled by your item in the *London Diary* of November 13, which states that Carnforth is in Yorkshire. It is I am happy to say, in Lancashire and has every intention of remaining so. Yours faithfully,
ELAINE KELLETT-BOWMAN,
House of Commons.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Managers of
Commercial Property
Knight Frank & Rutley

Stock markets

FT Ind 411.3 up 4.3
FT GTS 65.49 up 1.0

Sterling

52.1855 up 2.65 cents
Index 69.8 up 0.4

Dollar

Index 86.5 down 0.4

Gold

\$390.5 an ounce unchanged

3-month money

Inter-bank 17 1/2 to 17 3/4
Euro \$ 15 1/2 to 15 3/4

IN BRIEF

Shotton's main union accepts closure

The find blow to hopes of Shotton steelworks was averted yesterday by the union's biggest union, the Iron Steel Trades Confederation, which voted overwhelmingly to accept the closure of the plant. The union's delegates voted 10 to 1 to accept the closure of the plant, which is being run by Shotton Steel Corporation. The union's delegates voted 10 to 1 to accept the closure of the plant, which is being run by Shotton Steel Corporation.

Changes in exams

Accountants' appeals for a change in the structure of the examinations of the Association of Certified Accountants were announced yesterday. If accepted, the proposals will involve replacement of the present two-part exam with a more flexible two-part examination which allows for exemptions at the intermediate level and greater specialization at the final level.

own Agents' auditors Deloitte, Haskin & Sells have been selected to audit the accounts of the Crown Oil Corporation, which is incorporated at the beginning of next January. The company's accounts will be audited by the Exchequer Audit Department.

computer group split The National Enterprise Board has decided to divide its computer-software subsidiary into two companies, one to concentrate on viewdata-related business and one, Inspec, to handle software for the Inspec member-companies.

ship loan Anglo-Skylships has issued a prospectus, asking for £10m in backing for its lighter aircraft. The new offer of £5.5m ordinary shares, fully paid at £1.25 each, is being made at a price of 15p.

it trust sales up The trust sales in October were up significantly at £35.2m, compared with £28.2m the previous month. But after an £8m in repurchases, net sales were a slightly down at £27.2m. The previous October, sales of £27.2m, compared with £25.5m in the same period of the previous year, however, was an improvement over the previous year.

lks for workers John Garnett, director of Industrial Society, urged companies to involve supervisors and middle managers more in communicating company information to the workforce. He suggested a 30-minute monthly meeting to discuss company news and setbacks.

using demand drops The mortgage finance industry is needed for the sharp reduction in demand for new private finance disclosed in a state-of-the-industry survey published by the Federation of Building Societies.

Pound improves again as Iran fears keep dollar weak

By Caroline Ashdown
The dollar plunged again yesterday morning in nervous currency markets, as sterling leapt by 2.65 cents. The pound was in strong demand partly because of the dollar's continuing weakness, but also as a result of the record level of interest rates after last week's jump in minimum lending rate.

Starting rose by 0.4 points on the effective trade-weighted index to finish at 69.8, up from its end 1971 value. Against the dollar, it closed at 2.1855, its highest level for six weeks.

Iran continued to dominate the foreign exchange markets. There was rumour and counter-rumour yesterday about the willingness of the Iranians to accept dollars in payment for their oil. At one stage dealers were convinced that Iran would insist on other currencies to settle payments, and that it might convince other Opec members to do the same.

The rush out of dollars yesterday morning began with a large commercial order to sell dollars for Swiss francs, believed to have come from a Middle East customer. All holders of dollars are anxiously watching the crisis. There is a general feeling that if it is only Iran which moves out of dollars, then there need not be a general adjustment of exchange rates.

However, if Iran persuades other Opec nations to demand payments in, for example, a basket of currencies, then the dollar's central bank would be hard put to counteract heavy downward pressure.

Some dealers believed that the German and Swiss banks were not heavily in the market yesterday. There was some official support for the dollar when it slipped below DM1.76. However, it recovered to end the day at DM1.765, down from DM1.775 on Friday.

Since last week the American currency has lost just over 2 per cent in value against the Deutsche mark. It is possible that both the Germans and the Swiss are happy to see their currencies at present levels after the dollar's relative strength in October.

There have been worries in both countries recently over accelerating inflation and high exchange rates which are holding down prices. However, there is little doubt that the Germans and Swiss would bolster the dollar if the latter were gravely threatened by the Iranian crisis.

Yesterday, Mr. Abolghasani Bani-Sadr, the Iranian Foreign Minister, called on other Opec nations not to accept dollars for oil, and thus to change the dollar's role in the world monetary system. There were later reports that Libya and Syria might follow an Iranian move out of dollars.

Paradoxically, other Opec nations who have been upset by the declining value of the dollar may be less likely to switch to a basket of currencies for payments now, because this would weaken their own currencies.

It seems that Iran has begun to move all its dollar assets which are not frozen—those in non-American banks—so other currencies. Dealers yesterday saw evidence of this as well as of preparations by companies to make non-dollar payments for oil, if necessary.

The recent strength of sterling seems likely to last for at least as long as the present relatively high interest rates. Mr. John Nott, the Trade Secretary, praised the pound's high value when answering a parliamentary question yesterday. He also said that it was a by-product of the Government's economic policies and that foreign exchange markets, rather than the Government, should decide the value.

There was a slight flurry on the markets yesterday as the Swiss appeared to intervene in the Deutsche mark to hold the Swiss franc stronger than 93 centimes to the mark. The Swiss national bank probably decided against intervening as usual in dollars in order to avoid damaging the United States currency.

Senators oppose Chrysler rescue

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Nov 19. — The chances of the Chrysler Corporation going into bankruptcy increased today. Several key members of the banking committee of the United States Senate opposed a grant of \$1,500 (about £750m) of loan guarantees to America's tenth largest manufacturing company.

Even Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, whose state is the home of several large Chrysler plants, said: "This plan is not going to assure jobs, but instead it will prove to be a one-way ticket to unemployment. We may just be pouring money down the drain."

Chrysler states that without the loan guarantees, it cannot survive. Several senators today questioned whether the company deserved to survive, and current products that failed to meet the demand for small cars.

Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the banking committee, indicated that he favoured allowing Chrysler to file for bankruptcy and then using government funds to reorganize the company.

Senator Proxmire, Senator Jake Garn, of Utah, and Senator William Armstrong, of Colorado, all suggested that the government would not support the loan guarantee plan unless Chrysler's workers were willing to make major sacrifices, such as accepting a temporary wage freeze.

Mr Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers Union, pleading before the committee for Chrysler's 140,000 workers, stressed that the collapse of the company would mean unemployment for at least 600,000 people in the nation's car industry, with the bankruptcy of many Chrysler dealers and suppliers.

He said: "29,000 Chrysler workers have made the supreme sacrifice already by being laid-off permanently. How can the government not afford to save Chrysler?"

Mr Fraser probably did his cause more harm than good by attacking the Carter Administration and Mr Alfred Kahn, its chief inflation spokesman, who has stated that Chrysler workers must make higher sacrifices.

Mr Fraser said: "Mr Kahn's behaviour is outrageous. His actions shake my faith in government."

Many people, including White House officials, believe that the free enterprise system must be allowed to operate. Mr Douglas Fraser, the president of the United Auto Workers' Union, said in Washington yesterday that his union had not ruled out further help for Chrysler Corporation under certain conditions.

He told the Senate banking committee: "We have specifically not ruled out further actions on our part—other than Chrysler."

Mr Fraser indicated that the union first wanted to see what other interested parties would be doing to help the company.

Argos lists 'price fix' companies for OFT

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor
Argos Distributors, BAT group's catalogue discount chain, yesterday gave a list of more than 30 manufacturers and suppliers who, it claims, have refused supplies because of its price-cutting, to the Office of Fair Trading.

The list includes 10 watch manufacturers, several Japanese audio equipment makers, cosmetics manufacturers and suppliers of bedding, bicycles, power tools, sports goods, fishing equipment, extractor fans and china and glassware.

The Consumers' Association is near to completing a dossier, to be sent to Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, giving additional evidence of manufacturers refusing to supply discount stores. Photographic equipment and consumer durables are expected to be named in the dossier in addition to the areas identified by Argos.

Other sectors which the association has been investigating are jewellery and some branded jeans.

Mr Tom McAuliffe, joint managing director of Argos, went to the OFT yesterday after an invitation to offer evidence for the growing file on manufacturers and suppliers allegedly enforcing minimum pricing structures.

Because of the OFT's difficulties in taking action under the Resale Prices Act—which prohibits manufacturers from trying to enforce resale prices on retailers by refusing to supply goods—the OFT's file is most likely to be used when the director-general gets wider powers.

These strengthening his hand to deal with anti-competitive practices, should be available when the Competition Bill, now passing through Parliament, becomes law.

Argos said last night that since it began operations in 1973, the companies named had maintained a policy of non-supply.

It added: "We have regularly asked these companies why their products are withheld from us. We have received no satisfactory reply."

The OFT is now considering whether to ask the companies named by Argos for an explanation.

Earlier this year the OFT successfully took Hotpoint, part of GEC, to the High Court over refusal to supply the Comet discount chain with appliances. But loopholes in the 1964 legislation which officially abolished resale price maintenance are making court action difficult.

EEC shipowners may be paid to scrap fleets

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
Outline plans for stimulating three million tons of new merchant ship orders from EEC shipowners, on condition that they scrap double that tonnage over the next three years, will be considered today by the Community's industry ministers.

They will decide whether to go ahead with the drawing up of a scrap and build scheme to provide orders for European yards, improve the competitiveness of the Community's merchant fleet, and secure the jobs of 35,000 shipyard workers.

If implemented, owners would receive a payment for each new order placed with a Community yard, provided that the owner scrapped twice the equivalent tonnage. This would qualify for a further payment equivalent to the difference between the scrapping and the second hand price.

In its document the Commission suggested a target level of one million compensated gross registered tons of new orders annually, and officials estimate that this could generate an annual production by Community yards of between 2.5-3 million compensated gross registered tons.

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Averys musters final defence against GEC

By Rosemary Unsworth
Averys, the weighing machine company, has made what must be its final defence against GEC's £98m offer to buy the company. The company's chairman, Mr Richard Hain, said yesterday that the Birmingham-based group had done well to forecast for 1979 a 20 per cent increase in turnover and a 10 per cent rise in trading profit before interest.

"Do not be misled by GEC's insinuations that the engineering dispute, the strength of sterling and the lorry drivers' strike had little effect."

He said the board's confidence was backed by Averys' technological capability and leadership "in its own field, and the opportunities in Europe and from metrication under-planned, particularly in the 35-40 per cent contribution to income from service and maintenance contracts."

He also said that the proposed dividend of 15p net, would be twice covered by forecast earnings and fully covered by estimated current cost earnings.

Averys' other large shareholder, Kuwait Investment Office, which controls 7.5 per cent, has not yet made up its mind about the offer, according to Averys' advisers, J. Henry Schroder Wagg.

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BNOC sells £500m oil in advance

By Nicholas Hirst
British National Oil Corporation has completed a forward sale of £500m worth of oil production which will help reduce the public sector borrowing requirement.

Nearly all the sales have been placed with customers needing supplies for their United Kingdom refineries. Payment will be made over the next few months at a rate of £1.25 per barrel.

The sale commences around 120,000 barrels a day for about nine months and has been made in place of the Government's plan to raise £400m by sales of BNOC assets. It is regarded as being a success.

BNOC decided against asking for any premium payments, which would have reduced the price of the oil, because of the companies wishing to secure supplies in a continuing unsettled world oil market.

Iran's intentions remain uncertain. Mr Ali Akbar Moinefar, the oil minister, was quoted on the official Pars news agency as saying that, despite the United States embargo on purchases, it had not cut back production. Exports last month were 2.6 million barrels out of a total output of 3.6 million.

He said, however, that as Iran was now receiving more revenue for its oil because of the increase in spot prices there was no need to maintain production at the same level as before.

According to Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, at least 11 United States oil companies have now been banned from picking up Iranian oil.

Before the embargo Iran had announced it intended to cut back contract supplies to customers by 5 per cent.

US dealers demand decision on MG cars

By David Felton
Worried American car dealers who hold BL franchises are pressing the British company to reach a speedy conclusion on the future of the MG sports car.

Dealers in the United States are afraid that when MG production is phased out next year they will lose the major part of their business. At the moment in terms of volume the MGs accounts for more than 50 per cent of BL's American sales.

Two senior BL executives recently crossed the Atlantic in an attempt to reassure dealers, but several dealers stormed out mid-way through the meeting threatening to sue BL for damages for loss of business if the MG is dropped.

BL's reconstruction plans envisage the phasing out of the MG next year and the closure of the Abingdon plant in Oxfordshire. However, BL executives promised that production would continue until the end of next year, which would guarantee cars in America showrooms until the spring of 1981.

They also said that the MG marque would continue. BL is at present in discussion with a consortium led by Aston Martin Lagonda.

Mr Joseph Hanson, a dealer in Rockville, Maryland, and chairman of the Leyland Dealers National Dealers Council, said that his members were getting impatient with BL and were pressing for quick decisions.

Legal action was threatened by members of a breakaway dealers' council based on the West Coast, but it appears that this threat has now petered out. Edward Townsend writes: Total sales of 30 leading foreign vehicle distributors in the United Kingdom rose by almost 98 per cent in the three years to September, 1978, according to a new report by ICC Business Ratios.

The report states that although 1979 is forecast to be a "flat" year for new car sales, there seems little chance of BL producing enough cars to stem the rise in imports.

Rolls-Royce talks go on with NEB

The impasse over the future relationship between Rolls-Royce and the National Enterprise Board remained unresolved last night.

The expected meeting between Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and Sir Leslie Murphy, the NEB chairman did not take place although consultations continued at various levels between Whitehall, the NEB and Rolls-Royce.

Sir Leslie and his officials had been prepared for a meeting, but it had not been possible to confirm arrangements.

The Government is under strong pressure to resolve the uncertainty in view of the need to reach decisions on future funding of both Rolls-Royce and BL the NEB's other major interest.

But major difficulties have to be solved before the NEB board has threatened to resign if responsibility for Rolls-Royce is transferred to the Industry Department.

Hugh Stephenson, page 21

A thorn in the side of management and unions

Mr Robinson's final confrontation

By Clifford Webb
Mr Derek Robinson, the communist sacked by BL yesterday, first came to prominence at Longbridge six years ago when he replaced the legendary Mr Dick Etheridge as the engineering union's convenor and head of the shop stewards' committee.

He arrived at Longbridge in 1941 as a fresh-faced school-leaver starting a career as an apprentice toolmaker. It was the same year that Mr Etheridge became an AUEW shop steward and began the first of a long series of confrontations with the head of the Austin company, Sir Leonard Lord. Sir George Harriman and Lord Stokes also felt the weight of Mr Etheridge's authority on the shop floor.

On one occasion, when management walked out of a particularly noisy meeting with shop stewards, Mr Etheridge declared: "They will have to come to me to reopen the factory." They did.

It was against this background of absolute power that Mr Robinson, the burly six foot four of a Black Country family of chain-makers, began a long association with Mr Etheridge. It is widely thought that the older man's proudly declared membership of the Communist Party led to Robinson joining when he was 21.

Since then he has played a big role in the party's industrial policy-making, and fought four general elections as the communist candidate for the Northfield constituency that includes Longbridge.



Derek Robinson: critic of management.

In the last few years he has seldom been out of the public eye. As chairman of the unofficial BL combined shop stewards' committee, he has proved to be as much a thorn

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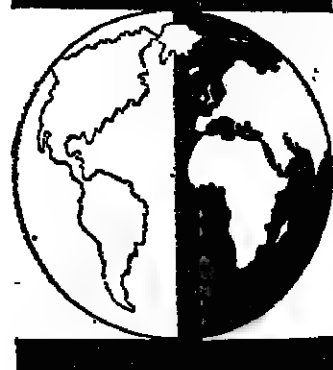
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	4p to 15p	Tricentrol	11p to 34p		
		Ultramar	10p to 27p		

THE POUND

traia S	29.45	Portugal Kr	111.00	108.00
ria Sch	66.50	South Africa Rd	4.93	1.80
ium Fr	2.63	Spain Pta	150.00	143.00
um S	11.35	Sweden Kr	2.50	2.10
und Mlk	8.60	Switzerland Fr	3.78	3.58
nce Fr	9.34	USA \$	2.24	2.18
many Dm	4.05	Yugoslavia Dm	48.50	45.50
ce Dr	91.50			
ugong S	11.30			
Fr	1875.00			
Sp	368.00			
terlands Gld	4.51			



W. German government out to cut income tax

The West German government is preparing a programme to reduce personal income taxes from the beginning of 1981.

Leaders of the Social Democrat and Free Democrat coalition parties met in Bonn today under the chairmanship of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt for a first official review of the options.

It is understood that the West German finance ministry would like to cut the nation's income tax bill in the year after next by between DM12,000m and DM14,000m. The loss of revenue to the government would be around DM6,000m.

French oil find

An oil field discovered near Pau in south-west France by Elf Aquitaine could yield 12,000 barrels a day, according to M. Robert Knous, a director of the group. The production, equal to 600,000 tons a year, would give a big boost to France's current annual oil output of 1.3 million tons.

Rupee devalued

India yesterday devalued the rupee by 1.71 per cent against sterling. The Reserve Bank of India fixed the new middle rate, which came into effect yesterday, at 17.55 rupees to the pound, against the previous rate of 17.25 rupees.

More foreign cars

Foreign models increased their share of the French car market to 21.89 per cent during the first nine months of this year from 20.79 per cent in the same 1978 period, the Auto Importers Association said in Paris yesterday.

Trade slowdown

Trade between the United States and West Germany will slow sharply in 1980 because of expected slowdowns in both economies, according to Munich-based IFO Institute for Economic Research.

Chloride group backs design of advanced motor for road transport

Development in electric vehicles should lead to better performance and economy

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Two parallel lines of development are leading to better performance and economy in battery-powered electric road vehicles. One is the continuing improvement of the batteries themselves to give longer life between charges; the other is the design of new motors and drives to translate the raw electrical power into practical traction for the vehicle.

Chloride Technical of Swinton, Manchester, the research and development centre of the Chloride group, is now backing the design of the more powerful version of the novel "variable reluctance" type of motor.

This promises significant benefits compared with direct current (dc) and conventional alternating current (ac) systems, and is intended for use in future Chrysler/Chloride electric vehicles.

Under a two-year research contract worth £250,000, work at Nottingham and Leeds Universities, which has already produced a 12.5 kilowatt system will move forward to a 50 kilowatt version. The Department of Industry is also supporting the programme.

Direct-current machines are reliable, efficient, well-known and relatively simple to control, but are expensive because their construction is complicated and labour-intensive.

Alternating-current machines are less complicated and cheaper, but are more difficult to control. (In practice, the electronic controller has to simulate a mains supply; this can be done but the cost is high.)

In the variable-reluctance motor, the rotation is induced by the magnetic attraction between a shaped stator and a shaped rotor. The magnetic field is produced by passing current through the windings, but the direction of the magnetic field does not affect the operation of the machine. The controller does not have to produce an alternating voltage, and so can be simpler than that required to drive a conventional ac motor.

Prospects for variable-reluctance systems appear good. They are well-suited to mass production and, it is estimated, could reduce the cost of an electric vehicle drive by at least a quarter.

The development programme is being led by Dr Brian Edwards, director of Chloride's electric vehicle research. Professor Peter Lawrence (motor research) at Leeds and Mr Rex Davis (electronic control) at Nottingham.

Machines of the future may well be glued together, rather than welded or casted, as the result of work done by researchers at the University of Birmingham.

Developments in adhesive technology have enabled engineers to devise a new method of bonding machine tool structures using modern epoxies. The end product, it is claimed, is cheaper and quieter and could result in significant increases in performance.

Another big advantage is that bonded joints possibly could be more easily tackled by robots, an area in which British industry is taking a closer, if belated, interest.

The Birmingham work has been done by Professor Stephen Tobias and Dr Medhat Sadek of the university's Mechanical Engineering Department. The technique is to build machine structures from frameworks of double containment joints linked by plates.

"It is very much like a Meccano set", Professor Tobias said, "with standardized sections such as corner plates which are simply struck together."

Foundry and welding work is time-consuming and, once the machine needs considerable effort to repair or modify. By using the Birmingham method, additional pieces such as stiffening ribs can be fixed quickly and if necessary the whole machine can be taken apart by using a blow torch.

With this development, machines built of different materials such as aluminium, steel and plastic, are now possible. Particularly important is that the use of large furnaces for the stress relieving of welded joints in big machines would no longer be necessary.

The Birmingham research falls in neatly with the recommendations of the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development (ACARD) in its latest report to the Cabinet on the impact of robots and automation.

It called for more research and development in the application, effectiveness and reliability of adhesive bonds and for greater priority to be given to this area by the Department of Industry Requirements Board.

Kenneth Owen and Edward Townsend



Mr Santiago Astrain: Three companies being studied.

Intelsat's spacecraft plans

Intelsat, the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, plans to launch the first spacecraft in its Intelsat 5 network next year. At an estimated cost of \$500m (about £250m), this network will more than double the capacity of the present Intelsat 4A network, which carries about two-thirds of the world's international transatlantic communications.

Each of the new satellites will be able to handle 12,000 voice circuits, compared with 6,000 for each of the Intelsat 4A spacecraft.

Looking beyond the mid-1980s, the 102-nation organization is exploring possible Intelsat 6 designs which might grow to handle 41,000 circuits per satellite.

Even greater capacities will be needed to meet the demands of digital communications in the latter half of the 1990s, according to Mr Santiago Astrain, Intelsat's director general. Three concepts are being studied: a multi-purpose space platform, and two groups of satellites, arranged in different ways.

BOC discounts threat to industry as workers start overtime ban

By John Huxley

BOC should know from its 55 depot managers later this afternoon the effects of the overtime ban by 3,000 drivers and cylinder handlers in its gas division, which began yesterday.

The men, who want a pay increase of 20 per cent, are refusing to cover for absent colleagues or accept emergency calls. A strike is threatened from early next year if an improved pay offer is not made.

Last night BOC was waiting to learn how many drivers and handlers had supported the overtime ban and how their

actions were affecting deliveries. But a spokesman that large sections of industry could be quickly and seriously affected.

To BOC's 180,000 cylinder customers, this year's deadline must seem depressingly familiar. For the third time in as many years, supplies of gases are being put in jeopardy by actual or threatened industrial action.

Last year disruption of supplies was averted by the award of a pay claim which, at 9 per cent, was sufficiently large to bring BOC into sharp conflict with the Government.

The previous year, a strike by BOC workers caused havoc throughout industry. Industrial

gases, primarily oxygen, nitrogen and argon, are an essential ingredient of most manufacturing processes. BOC is the chief supplier with an estimated 80 per cent share of a market valued at between £200m and £250m. It is the main supplier of acetylene in the United Kingdom.

In 1977, a large section of industry came to a halt when BOC's manual workers went on strike. An estimated 50,000 workers were laid off in other industries.

The effects of the stoppage caught industry largely unaware. Yet, within a fortnight, 17,000 workers had been laid off, many of them in shipbuilding and engineering.

Rockware to reduce Merseyside output

By Edward Townsend

Rockware is to shut down one of the four glass container furnaces at its loss-making St Helens factory on Merseyside and make redundant a third of the 1,350 workers.

The cut to take place next spring and summer, in part a result of growing imports, bottles and jars from abroad now account for 11 per cent of the United Kingdom market, a rise of more than 100 per cent in the last five years.

Rockware is to phase out manufacture at St Helens of clear glass, used mainly in the soft drinks trade and the sector most hit by imports, in favour of producing a wider range of green and amber containers. The latter, sold mainly to the wine and spirit industries, are more profitable and, because a large number of the filled containers are exported, represent a more secure market.

Mr George Mead, director and general manager of the St Helens plant, which accounts for about a quarter of Rockware's glass container capacity, said yesterday that the factory had not been profitable for three years. This had been aggravated by inflation and high interest rates and made it more difficult to cope with imports.

Rockware's managing director, Dr Derek Whitaker, formerly managing director of British Leyland Cars, said the redundancies were regretted. "We look for the support of all concerned in pursuing these plans to a successful conclusion."

There are plans throughout the industry for new investments and increases in efficiency in an attempt to combat the import threat. Much of the foreign glass is coming from factories in Europe, the majority of which have been experiencing losses in the past year largely due to over capacity.

The industry leaders complain that prices of imported products are often 10 per cent below the domestic rates and that the Europeans are probably only recovering their costs.

Britain's glassmakers have fought shy of alleging that foreign manufacturers have been dumping their excess output here.

Rolls-Royce wins £28.5m Egypt power contract

By Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

Rolls-Royce has won a £28.5m contract to supply a complete gas-turbine-powered electricity generating station to the Egyptian electricity authority.

The four packaged gas turbine units, powered by eight Olympus engines, produce 200 kilowatts, making this one of the largest power station projects undertaken by the company.

It is planned to operate the station at Mahmoudia, 120 miles from Cairo, for about 4,000 hours a year, supplying power at the push of a button.

The contract means Rolls-Royce has become the world's first supplier of aero-type gas turbines to sell 2,000 units for industrial and marine applications. This is more than the combined sales of the two leading United States manufacturers with 1,000 units each.

In each case, it is understood,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BL sleep-workers improved the process

From Mr Bernard Heymann

Sir, It is little wonder that industrial relations in this country are in such disarray. When we hear so much talk of increasing productivity, BL seems to have dismissed a number of its workers for doing just that.

Surely the matter should have been thoroughly investigated and the production schedule modified, for it seems that the workers, through their own initiative, have improved upon a working process; this deserves a reward not dismissal.

According to the BBC report on the matter, the reason why management discovered the so-called "breach" was because of a report in the *News of the World*. What to my mind requires an answer is why management itself was not aware of the situation—one can only draw the obvious conclusion that they were at home in their warm beds rather than inspecting the factory and seeing for themselves.

I am quite certain that if this matter had been dealt with in an objective way everybody would have benefited, most of all the shareholders who in this instance happen to be the British public.

Yours faithfully, B. HEYMAN, Volessan Ltd, 55 Ranelagh Road, London NW2 2BT, November 14.

insisted with honour, but with the proviso that the union now agrees to a renegotiation of their work quotas, and those of their colleagues?

Yours faithfully, PETER PETTS, Bramley Hall, Chequers Road, Wretton, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

From Peter Petts

Sir, In mitigation of the behaviour of the sleeping BL workers it is argued by their union that they had completed their work quotas in the first half of the shift. They appear to have achieved this by developing a faster method of working.

Should they not, then, be rewarded for their initiative?

In such a situation, one must on the one hand discontinue such such with bringing in a million letters are posted each day and are nearly all delivered the next, the cost to the Post Office in storage space is kept to a reasonable minimum; in a sense, "the shop is cleared" before the next cycle begins.

However, a system which deliberately holds back mail incurs storage and security costs which are really not necessary, as well as all the frustration and losses to the actual users of the service.

What is now needed is one big effort for one day only to clear all the mail in the system (Let's pay all the postmen tri-

ple time for that effort). day, bring in a single system and then keep the daily posting of a million letters moving at a snail's pace, without the date holding back of son them.

Is such reasoning so that our Post Office pla cannot stand? I am, Yours faithfully, BRIAN P. PRICE, Longmeadow, High Street, Nutfield, Surrey RH1 4RH Nov 11.

From Mr E. S. Honeball

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Yours faithfully, ROSEMARY M. EDWARDS, 3 Victoria Gardens, London, W.11, November 14.

One of the ways to make a fortune.

From Barbara Simon

Sir, How very odd that someone speaking in the heart of the City of London should warn his audience so sternly on the impossibility of spending money one has not got. Surely, within that very square

mile, a great many fortunes have been made by doing just that? Yours faithfully, BARBARA SIMON, 55 Balfour Street, Edinburgh EH6 5DF, November 13.

Non-cooperation dogs CEBG site study

By John Huxley

Research to improve industrial relations on power station building sites has been set back by lack of cooperation by some unions and contractors.

The study, which was set out by the independent Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, was commissioned by the Central Electricity Generating Board last year. It represented the first of a series of initiatives to solve the problems of low productivity and bad labour relations which have dogged the board's building programme for more than a decade.

These have led to long delays and large cost rises, now in excess of £1,000m.

A draft of the study—examining "human and organisational relationships influencing site industrial relations and productivity"—is being studied by CEBG officials. The board has been asked to comment on it and to cooperate in site liaison arrangements.

Full disclosure, however, remains a stumbling block. Hopes of bringing long-term peace to power station building sites now rest largely on the industry's ability to produce a comprehensive national agreement covering pay and conditions.

Meanwhile, major tenders on CEBG sites are being required to confirm their federal, site-based agreement between the principal contractors covering bogus arrangements.

New steel plant

A new Indian rolling mill of the Patal Ironworks group started operations yesterday near Udine for a yearly production of 400,000 metric tonnes of steel rod.

Belgium has the bill for your telephone

From Mr John E. Barham

Sir, I have been following some amazement the correspondence on telephone bills have been living here since and I am not now certain the present system of bills was introduced; it may even exist in another when I first arrived.

The bills are sent out two months and contain the following information:

- The number of local calls during the period.
- The number of calls to numbers outside the local calls.
- For international calls, the time and number called, followed by the number of units which indicate the length of the call, and finally the cost of the call.

It is therefore very easy to keep check on one's phone if a record is kept of the number of calls made inside the country and the numbers when international calls are made. It is unbelieve that a similar system is used in the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, JOHN E. BARHAM, 1050 Avenue Louise, Bte 1450 Brussels, Belgium.

ple time for that effort). day, bring in a single system and then keep the daily posting of a million letters moving at a snail's pace, without the date holding back of son them.

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New steel plant

A new Indian rolling mill of the Patal Ironworks group started operations yesterday near Udine for a yearly production of 400,000 metric tonnes of steel rod.

Bank in Northern Ireland took similar action in charges to customers were created last July for the time since 1971. These re-

marginally below charges Britain.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Extracts from the Chairman's Review by Sir Albert Robinson.

Results for the Year

It is a pleasure for me on this thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company to report that Group profits after tax and available for distribution to ordinary shareholders for the year ended 30 June 1979 were a record at R51.1 million or 719 cents per share. This compares with R42.2 million (594 cents per share) last year, and reflects an increase of 21%. After an unchanged level of 170 cents in recent years dividend distributions were increased by 50% to 255 cents per share. The main factors contributing to these results were an R11.6 million increase in Group investment income to R88.1 million and a substantial rise in net sundry revenue.

Financing

We have reduced our foreign indebtedness, and have taken the opportunity to strengthen our liquidity by raising R40 million in the form of redeemable preference shares and the first tranche totalling R20 million has been received. This will provide us with funds to exploit additional investment opportunities when these arise.

Minerals

During the year ended 30 June 1979 approximately R13.7 million was derived from our investments in the diamond industry.

Gold and Uranium

A further R25 million is expected to be spent on capital development at the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company Witwatersrand, Limited during the present calendar year, bringing the total expenditure on the expansion programme to approximately R220 million. While the recent announcement about the uranium ore reserves in the old Randfontein Section is disappointing, we must await the results of further investigations. However results for the current year are unlikely to be affected and operating profits will exceed those of 1978.

The rise in gold price has made it possible for Western Areas Gold Mining Company Limited to concentrate a greater degree of its mining operations on lower grade ores. Exploratory drilling from underground has confirmed the existence of additional gold and uranium bearing ore and the company consequently is endeavouring to obtain a suitable uranium sales contract through the agency of the Nuclear Fuels Corporation of South Africa (Pty) Limited (Nufcor).

Platinum

Profits after tax in respect of Rustenburg Platinum Holdings Limited for the year ended 31 August 1978, rose to R78.7 million, (1978: R25.8 million). Dividend policy continues to be conservative to enable the company to build up sufficient cash resources to help meet its commitments in the future. The prospect of a recession in the United States underlines the need for this caution, although Rus-

tenburg remains confident that its results for the coming year will be satisfactory.

Coal

Production of the Tavistock group of collieries increased only marginally last year to 3.78 million tons from 3.73 million tons but the money value of coal sales rose by 14.6% to R29.3 million largely because of the increase in the coal price gazetted in February. The pre-tax profit of the Tavistock group inclusive of its trading operations and a profit of R2.9 million resulting from the group's share of TCOA net export earnings was R18.9 million. This was up 18.2% on the previous year.

Base Metals

We are re-examining the position of our Oshana mine in South West Africa and during the next twelve months will carry out a further programme of drilling and underground development costing approximately R2 million. However the level of present prices and the uncertainty created by the extent of their fluctuation give cause for continued concern and certainly do not encourage major new production.

During the past financial year operating results at Shangani Mining Corporation Ltd. have been appreciably better than anticipated and it is now expected that opencast operations, which are still continuing, will augment the production from underground half of 1980.

However, with long-term liabilities amounting to ZR516.2 million the need for further funds in order to bring the underground mine to production, Shangani has serious financing problems which are likely to be met by a capital reconstruction.

Exploration

After three years of exploration work in the Karoo, jointly with the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company, Witwatersrand, Limited it has become apparent that this is an area of considerable promise. Exploratory drilling in other areas has also increased over the past year and a number of interesting projects in the fields of coal, base metals and gold are being examined.

Industry

The contribution to Group net attributable earnings from our industrial investments rose by 3.9% to R21 million last year mainly because of improved profits from The South African Breweries Limited, Johnson Matthey & Co. Limited in the United Kingdom and Lysing Holdings Limited.

Since the financial year end, Johannes has sold its investment in Johnson Matthey & Co. Ltd. Rustenburg's sole marketing agent and joint owner of Matthey Rustenburg Refiners Ltd, which company is responsible for the treatment and refining of Rustenburg's products. Changes in the United Kingdom's tax structure rendered the return on the

investment less attractive to the Johannes Group, and when the opportunity arose to sell the holding into friendly and secure hands, the decision was taken to relinquish it. We are confident that the good relationship between Johnson Matthey and Rustenburg will continue in the future.

Labour Situation

While we in the mining industry congratulate the Government on the steps that it has taken, it is necessary to point out that changes still have to be enacted which will enable us to use our black labour force more efficiently. While trade union members are entitled to assurances that their rights and interests will be secured, but the interests of investors and, indeed, the interests of the country as a whole, also require consideration.

The labour problem in South Africa is a twofold one. On the one hand we are beset by a disproportionately high level of unemployment amongst unskilled blacks, on the other hand our progress is being held back by a scarcity of skilled whites.

Because black unemployment poses a threat to our socio-political stability everything possible has to be done to increase the rate at which jobs are created in South Africa. But we will not succeed in creating the jobs required unless simultaneously the number of skilled personnel in the country is increased, for without the skilled personnel the new investment needed will not be viable. It is just not possible to provide the increased need for skilled labour from the white sector of

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Hefty losses ahead for the discount houses?

ling continued to benefit yesterday both in the dollar's worldwide weakness and week's hike in UK interest rates. The interesting question now is how the foreign demand there is going to be this Thursday's \$800m offer of medium-term stock.

erzarily, on the basis of the last couple sessions there looks to be every prospect his stage that investors may have to bid the 98 1/2 minimum tender price to in stock; and a successful outcome could keep the self-feeding momentum of the recovery going awhile longer. But a market that has already gyrated so wildly over the past few days, forty-eight hours can be a long time. Meanwhile, there is more than an air of ease in the discount market at the moment though you may not guess that from strong showing of discount houses' since the MLR announcement last week. On the one side the houses have been a terrible beating on the trading at the sharp rise in interest rates tumbling edge-edges prices. At the top of that the special—and to some extent the sole—role of the discount market in the UK monetary apparatus could undergo some profound changes if the new monetary controls promised by Chancellor alters the rules of the game. Issues are causing much heart-searching within individual houses. Few in the market would quibble that market has lost an appreciable amount to resources in recent weeks, though the sort of the troubles at each house depends course on how bearish or bullish each on the interest rate structure in front of the MLR rise on 17th past week. The tide of events moved so quickly recent months that it would be impossible the market to have escaped unscathed the chances are that those with a calendar and will not have time to recoup losses.

interest rate outlook wrongly and for much of the summer the market had still been looking for interest rates to come off by the year. On the role of the discount market in the monetary system, any switch to monetary base control could involve major changes in the way the houses operate. It seems unlikely that the rules will be changed overnight as in 1973 when, freed from the need to hold half their assets in public sector liabilities, the discount market tried to sell large amounts of gilts onto a falling market incurring losses that all but wiped out the resources of some of the houses.

Undisclosed reserves

There are calls at the moment for the ending of the lender of last resort facility enjoyed by the houses or perhaps its general extension to financial institutions which would reduce their scope for gearing up. This is the extreme form of monetary base control and seems unlikely at the moment, especially with the Bank of England committed to maintaining the present system. But call money could cease to be counted as a reserve asset which would make it less attractive for the banks to hold. But the houses have proved themselves small and versatile enough to weather these sort of setbacks and if the worst came to the worst they could still survive on their commercial role alone—making a market in short-term assets.

Meanwhile the last couple of years have been pretty good for the individual houses and undisclosed reserves built up in this period are probably strong enough to see them through—while if the gilt market runs true to form the capital profits of the next few months may even make up for the hefty losses recently sustained.

Floating rate CDs

A 'first' in sterling

The Floating Rate Certificate of Deposit, a familiar financing technique in the Euro-dollar market for some time, has now arrived in the sterling market. The first issue is small, a £3m, three-year deal arranged by Bankers Trust International for Taiyo Kobe Bank, but it could well signal the opening of a significant new market, particularly for other Japanese banks.

Under Ministry of Finance rules designed to encourage the matching of assets and liabilities, Japanese banks are required to cover at least 60 per cent of their international lending with funds maturing in excess of one year.

Since the big Japanese City banks are precluded from tapping the international bond markets they have therefore resorted massively to the dollar CD markets. In particular over the past two years or so they have exploited—almost monopolised—the floating rate CD market, which secures them three or five-year money at rates revised every three or six months in line with changing bank rates.

The sterling issue follows closely on the pattern of dollar issues, carrying a margin of quarter per cent over six months inter-bank offered rates.

One attraction for the Japanese banks is that funding through this route is at present cheaper than tapping the acceptance markets; and is thus an economic way of financing sterling loan books.

Even so, rates about the 17 per cent plus level may prove to be a short-term concession to the development of the market, as also might be the existence of the "corridor" since CD's quality as interest-bearing liabilities.

On the other hand the Japanese Ministry of Finance is reviewing the 60 per cent rule and is expected if anything, to tighten up even further on matching requirements. Moreover, there are already signs that the dollar CD markets are becoming saturated with Japanese paper.

NEB-baiting has always been good sport, though some of the fun went out of it after Lord Ryder ceased to be chairman. Long time students of the National Enterprise Board would give their right arms to be present at the next meeting between the present chairman, Sir Leslie Murphy, and Sir Kenneth Keith of Rolls-Royce.

It is idle to suppose that personalities haven't contributed to the running of NEB-Rolls. Sir Kenneth Keith, since he moved on from day-to-day involvement in the affairs of Hill, Samuel, has dominated Rolls-Royce in a strongly personal manner. Such entrepreneurs do not like nannies looking over their shoulders.

During the late summer of 1978, the NEB decided that Sir Kenneth should be replaced and told the minister, Mr Varley, so.

The Department of Industry at the time also seemed to take the view that something needed to be done about Rolls-Royce, looking with favour on some kind of "GEC solution". The idea was floated that Sir Arnold Weinstock might take a management contract to run the company; or that appropriate parts of Rolls-Royce (though not the military bits) might be merged with GEC. But the idea never took off and seems unlikely to do so.

Sir Kenneth Keith is the sort of animal who when attacked defends himself. Sir Kenneth's old links with the Conservative Party were with the Heath rather than with the Thatcher wing. It seems, however, that Sir

Frank McFadden, who was invited to join the Rolls-Royce board as the post-war next chairman, was the main conduit by which Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph were influenced towards the decision that Rolls-Royce should be taken away from the NEB and report directly in future to the Department of Industry.

It was not surprising that the NEB cotrarily exploded when told of this plot hatched behind their backs. The matter has now been taken out of Sir Keith Joseph's hands and placed with a committee chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with Sir Keith and Mr Prior as members.

This committee will have to go beyond the personalities to the underlying issues involved. So what are they?

The Rolls-Royce case seems to run as follows. The company has a strong board. It understands its business. It is, therefore, intolerable and inefficient for it to be placed in a situation where its every action is second-guessed by the NEB, whose members however distinguished, know less about aero-engines.

It is intolerable for the NEB to behave towards the board of Rolls-Royce as, say, a major organization within the private sector might behave towards the board of one of its smaller subsidiaries. The argument in the end must be with the Government, so the reporting system should be simplified.

Further, runs the Rolls-Royce version, slavish adherence to some financial target set for Rolls by the NEB totally

fails to take account of the fact that the national interest requires Rolls-Royce to stay alive and in the forefront of the international engine business. This will require another £700m or so of government money, so the relationship should be directly with the Department of Industry.

The NEB rejoinder runs as follows. The lame ducks like Rolls-Royce were given to the NEB because it was thought that a body like the NEB had the expertise to do a better job of monitoring performance than civil servants.

An NEB with members like Mr Alistair Frame of Rio Tinto-Zinc, or Mr John Gardiner of the Laird Group, or Sir Leslie Smith of BOC, or Sir Jack Walling of the GOC Group is well qualified to ask the necessary awkward questions. Rolls-Royce has been set a financial target of earning 10 per cent on its capital employed by 1981. On all present indications there is no chance of that target being met.

Consequently, the NEB has concluded that, while Rolls-Royce makes the best aero-engines in the world, not enough has changed in the way the company goes about its business since it was bailed out in 1971. It, therefore, wants a change in direction at the top of the company, the introduction of strong financial controls and the appointment of the long-promised chief executive.

Since the NEB thought that the incoming Government was in favour of a greater sense of commercial discipline in the loss-making public sector, its members were surprised to find that

Rolls-Royce had made direct approaches to ministers without informing them. Had broken the terms of the "Memorandum of Understanding" reached between its then chairman, Lord Ryder, and Sir Kenneth Keith by which Rolls-Royce agreed not to make direct approaches to ministers without informing its shareholder, the NEB.

(Equally, it was surprised to learn late in the day that the board of its other main lame duck, BL, had recently arranged a private dinner with Sir Keith Joseph to discuss future plans.)

To an outsider it seems clear that the NEB wins the argument on points. The history of relations between Whitehall and publicly owned industry has been chequered and uneasy. If the Government decides that it wants, as a matter of policy, to subsidize Rolls-Royce's operations, it could either instruct the NEB to change the company's financial target, or it could indeed take Rolls into a special wing of the Department of Industry.

Otherwise, the fact that Rolls-Royce does not like being asked awkward questions by the NEB, does not alter the fact that, where such large amounts of public money are involved, the questions need to be asked.

Mr Heath's government came to regret that it had summarily done away with the old Industrial Reorganization Corporation. The problems remained the same, but they were to be dealt with at first hand inside Whitehall. If Mrs Thatcher's government emasculates the NEB it will equally come to regret it.

Peter Hill examines the threat posed to an important British industry

Textiles: repelling the American invader

Jim Conner will be busy briefing his colleagues in the American textile industry in North Carolina this week on the results of his touring tour of Europe. Mr Conner is executive vice-president of the American Yarn Spinners Association, was the leader of a 12-man sales mission to Europe last week.

He took in Brussels, Paris, Düsseldorf, Manchester and Leicester. The visit was the latest manifestation of the United States determination to exploit favourable exchange rates and promote sales of American textiles throughout the world. American yarn producers and fabric manufacturers chose Europe as a strategic first target with the United Kingdom at its centre.

The row over the imports made by the Americans has been simmering for months. At today's meeting of the EEC's Council of Ministers it could boil over.

British fibre producers, especially ICI and Courtauld, have been pressing the British Government and the EEC Commission for months to curb the activities of the American producers. But their pleas have so far come to naught. Although sympathetic to the problems the industry ministers have made it clear that any unilateral action by Britain could spark off a damaging trade war and lead to retaliatory action against British exports to the United States.

The fibre producers, through the British Man-Made Fibres Federation and the British Textile Confederation, will maintain the pressure. Mr Leonard Regan, the BTC president, clearly exasperated by the lack of government action, has called

for an end to "pussy footing." America's push into Europe started at the end of last year and has been building up ever since. The United States Department of Commerce commissioned nearly 50 detailed market reports from Kurt Salmon Associates.

In their report on the United Kingdom Kurt Salmon concluded: "A moderate opportunity for the United States to expand its textile exports to Great Britain lies within the area of yarn and fabric of man-made fibres and blends of man-made and natural fibres. However, any growth in export sales will depend on a firm commitment to long-term supply with high service and quality levels."

The American industry has been quick off the mark. Agencies and warehousing facilities have been established in Britain over the past few months. The first shipment of the third quarter of this year shows American imports of nylon yarn for carpets at 1,257 tonnes, compared with 2,713 tonnes for the whole of last year.

Imports of polyester textured yarn in the three months to September amounted to 2,044 tonnes—well above the total for the whole of last year. Imports of polyester staple, which last year amounted to 381 tonnes, reached 566 tonnes in the third quarter of this year.

The British producers claim that the United States fibre manufacturers are engaging in unfair competition as a result of the artificially low American domestic prices. They say that these abnormal advantages are reflected downstream in petro-

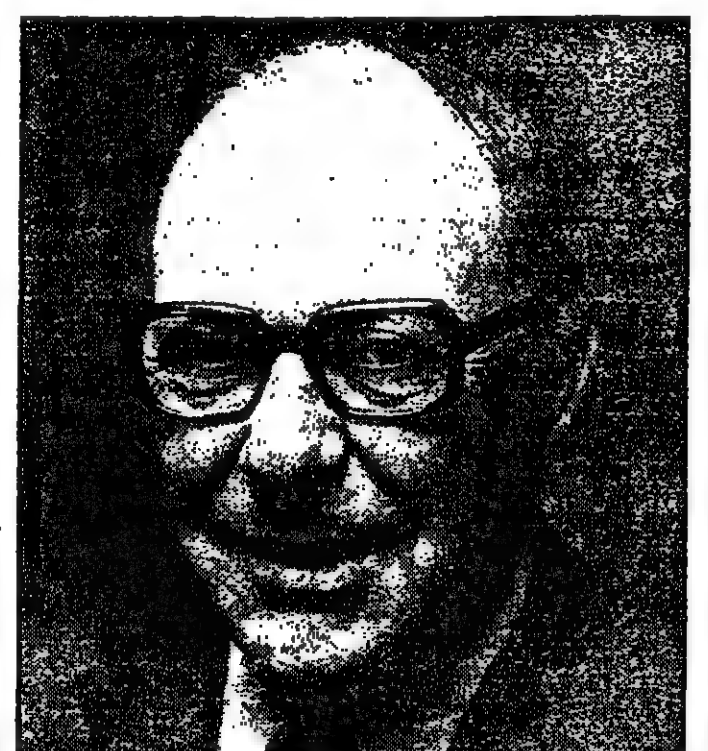
chemicals and fibre production. Indeed, the representations made by the British and European fibre producers' organizations are now being taken up with growing vigour by chemical industry organizations.

There has been much argument and discussion in the corridors of the European Commission building in Brussels and talks were held in Washington yesterday between the Americans and Commission officials. But, so far, despite the months of debate and exhortation, the Commission has taken no action.

The British fibre producers have been asking for prompt action to be taken, either with an immediate embargo on "sensitive" American imports or in the form of countervailing duties. The most potentially rewarding area, so far as the industry sees it, would be by invoking Article XXIV (1) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which states: "Governments may control raw material prices only so long as this practice does not enhance their exports."

Detailed submissions have been drawn up and have been considered by the Commission with the main thrust of the argument being that the Commission should consider imposition of a countervailing duty.

The United States has committed itself to a reduction of oil and gas prices over the next five years. But the British fibre producers argue that while the damage will have been done and the American market share lost, the British and other parts of the EEC—will have been established.



Mr Leonard Regan, president of the British Textile Confederation: exasperated by the lack of government action.

In the months of talks which have taken place, the United States has been able to point to the favourable exchange rates which have assigned the movement of American fibres and textiles to Britain and to other parts of Europe. And they have been able to show the difference between American manufacturing techniques and those of the European producers.

But this highly sensitive area the Commission has been conscious of the overriding need to prevent any retaliatory action

particularly since United States authorities are known to be preparing anti-dumping cases against some European steel producers, including the British Steel Corporation.

The possibility that those cases could be activated in response to the United States fibres has become a major preoccupation of the negotiators.

Many other pressing industrial issues are due to be discussed at today's meeting and it may well be that the textile lobby will be disappointed yet again.

How important is your job?

Patricia Tisdall

According to a survey released by the British Institute of Management today, 36 per cent of companies say they have no formal job evaluation scheme, and most have no intention of ever introducing one. Some of the reasons given for rejection are highly revealing, such as: "Our prime preoccupation is with survival rather than refined techniques."

"We have no personnel function and do not believe we should have one—it's a manager's job to manage people. It seems to me that evaluation is just another dehumanizing element which industry, if it were properly organized and managed, should be able to do without."

Even more disturbing in view of the rapid advances in technology and management science are BIMS findings that three quarters of the companies which do operate job evaluation schemes do not envisage making any changes in the near future. Moreover, 69 per cent said that they had not made any changes in their schemes since they had first been introduced.

From this emerges a picture of complacent and rigid attitudes to the contribution which jobs can make to industry. Given that labour charges represent an ever increasing proportion of total costs, it might go a long way towards explaining poor industrial performance.

One defence, of course, is that the replies may have been based on lack of understanding of what job evaluation involves. The textbook definition is that it is a method of determining the value of a job relative

to all other jobs within the same organization. The importance of that job to the organization as a whole can thereby be established and it can be placed in the appropriate position within an overall grading structure. In short, it establishes the difference in human input and monetary value between various jobs.

There are disadvantages in this. The overall wage bill often increases after the introduction of a job evaluation scheme. Discovery of pay inequalities usually results in upward regradings although

downgradings and even elimination of jobs are not unknown. Other complaints are that employees tend to use schemes as a lever to improve their competitiveness in local or national labour market. However, this seems a small price to pay for the improvement in industrial relations which most firms use in job evaluation schemes claim as a benefit. It should also be weighed against the clearer insight which employers gain into their own businesses.

For apart from providing a basis for a logical pay structure, job evaluation also creates a framework for analysing jobs.

It can, therefore, be used in identifying training needs, recruiting new employees and reducing labour turnover.

However, fears that schemes would be used simply to identify scapegoats for redundancy can be partly allayed by the survey's findings that new jobs have been created in 90 per cent of the participating organizations.

Nevertheless, the common starting point to all schemes is a factual description of a job. This should not only describe the purpose of the job but also analyse the responsibility, knowledge and skill involved in carrying it out.

Job evaluation is not new. It has been fairly common practice in the United States since the 1920s. But in Britain, apart from the solitary example of ICI which pioneered it in 1935, job evaluation was not prevalent until the late 1960s. It flourished under various pay policies and gained new impetus as a result of the 1970 Equal Pay Act.

Once again, British managers may be able to learn from their American counterparts who have been developing their job evaluation schemes to allow greater participation by employees. Already a significant number of British companies appear to be moving in this direction. Some 28 per cent of those which do operate job evaluation schemes make all the scheme documents available to employees.

High on the list of advantages stated by companies which operate evaluation schemes is that they improve human relations and communications. Given the pressures to encourage greater worker participation it seems all the more strange that so many companies have set their faces against this particular route.

Business Diary: Scotch corner • Only one owner

don Manzie may find him under-employed when he is up a new job with the argument of industry in the year. Manzie, 49, and a Scot, is to lead the Industrial Development Unit, which is responsible for financial assistance at the 1972 Industry Act, which includes regional assistance, industrial sector schemes rescue cases (a Scot hand-out cash?).

Motor trade business between this country and the Continent has become so depressing one way that I'm delighted to report an enterprising export for a British company. It's a result of French car sales in will soon be armed with its own Glas's Guide, the best "bible" of the used car

trade here. *Côté Professionnelle VO du Catalogue des Catalogues* is being launched in March by EPG of Paris, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Glas's Guide Service, Weybridge. According to Leo Dombill, Glas's managing director, the French market is ripe for financial assistance at the 1972 Industry Act, which includes regional assistance, industrial sector schemes rescue cases (a Scot hand-out cash?).

A colleague told us that French dealerships are often much larger than in Britain. Single dealers often sell 4,000 to 5,000 cars a year, more than double their British equivalents. But as used car salesmen they have a lot to learn. "French dealers try to sell everything themselves. That is fine if the market keeps moving up but when things get a bit sticky they are left holding large numbers of cars which could be sold within the trade if they had a genuine guide to used car prices covering the whole country," said the Glas's man.

The French trade guide *L'Argus* is on sale to the general public but unlike Glas's "top to bottom" price range only gives an average. Will the chauvinistic French take kindly to British intervention? Glas's hope so, since all the staff in the new Paris office will be French.

I've long thought that canned music is self-generating, and now I know I'm right. It's escaped from Allied Breweries pubs, and made its way into the group's London offices where it plays itself to telephone callers who are waiting on the line for an answer. At least it's Chopin and not the Beer Barrel Polka.

This miserable cave (right) has been dubbed The Satisfied Customer by the Hampshire-based construction group Conder International, a block of whose shares was placed by Rothschild's yesterday. Jane Cole, the wife of Conder executive chairman and co-founder Robin Cole told me yesterday that the bust was discovered under the stairs when the company moved into some temporary offices. The finder, design engineer Derek Bolton cried: "Aha, the satisfied customer!" That was 28 years ago, Mrs Cole says. Today, a replica stands in the foyer of all Conder group establishments.

I don't usually go in for reprints in Business Diary, but try as I can I don't see how I can do better than to quote in its entirety the following snippet from Specialist Car, the magazine for workers in BL's Jaguar, Rover and Triumph divisions. "Local churches in the Longbridge area are praying for the success of the Mini Metro and for the future of the Longbridge plant."

Christian employees are starting a renewed Christian initiative with the industrial harvest thanksgiving service and prayers for the Mini Metro. "Churches in the West Heath, Rothery, Lickney, Barnet Green, Kings Norton and Northfield are joining in. A spokesman said: "We are definitely praying for a secure future. "During the winter three guest speakers will be questioned about their work and trades union membership."

Adrian Scrope, three of whose ancestors were beheaded for crimes ranging from reason to regicide, is intent on resurrecting an archetypal British hero. He is trying to raise in the City half the £4m cost of a film about Biggles, the air ace created by the late Captain W. E. Johns. Scrope, a mutual fund investment adviser, says if anyone can tempt the City back into film finance it must be Biggles, the hero the money men all grew up with.

The rest, he thinks, will depend on presenting a proper package, so the Biggles proposal will come complete with market research results from America and counsel's opinion about a recent tax ruling which might allow film financiers 100 per cent capital allowances in the first year.

"Our story introduces an American girl as love interest. Biggles is essential. We have also changed Biggles' cousin Algy a bit. He has become a sort of aristocratic, psychopathic killer."

Ahoy there Dr Denis Rebbeck, the former chairman and managing director of Harland & Wolff, who bobs up out of busy retirement as chairman of the new Pilotage Commission.

Some, including Mrs Thatcher, might have thought this craft quango-like in her lines, especially since the idea is inherited from Labour—but the launching has gone ahead.

Rebeck tells me from Northern Ireland that the commission, which will coordinate this country's writer of pilotage authorities, isn't a quango because it will be funded not from the public purse but from harbour dues.

He was just telling Business Diary how well Labour did in its dying hours to write the commission into the Marine Shipping Bill when suddenly the line stretched.

"Oh dear," I heard Rebbeck say. "Do you think that's because I said something good about the last government?"

The non-smoker in me was delighted by a notice I saw in a London taxi saying: "Thank you for not smoking in this cab." The notice was above an advertisement for a brand of cigarettes whose name, dislike of the word, forbids me to mention.

Ross Davies

H. UPMANN



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FINANCIAL NEWS

Costs catch up with MK
and hold profits to £3.6m

Our Financial Staff
The group's two smaller companies, Ega and Insulators, fared a lot better during the half year and Mr Robertson says that the companies were able to absorb the higher costs without seriously affecting profitability. Against the general trend Insulators managed to turn in sales of around £2m and chipped in profits of about £300,000.

Mr Robertson's gloomy predictions made at the time of his annual statement appear to be coming true. Apart from higher interest rates, the group is concerned about the falling off of home orders.

The downturn in construction developments, both in the private and public sectors, are beginning to bite into MK's order book. Over the past 12 months or so the shortage of new developments has been shared up by higher activity in refurbishment, and the consequent rewiring, of existing buildings.

Exports and overseas operations have taken on an increasingly important role within the MK group. Although exports only produced about 20 per cent of MK's turnover the present order book is likely to contribute a much higher level of earnings during the second half.

The board is not making any predictions on the outcome of the second half except there is a question mark hanging over the group's ability to produce higher profits on the year than it did last time.

MK continues to hunt for a suitable European vehicle on which to base its overseas expansion. According to group executives no announcement is thought likely in the current year.

On the basis of a lower tax charge earnings per share are up 6 pence to 20.05p against 18.91p and the board is recommending a half time dividend of 5p compared with last year's interim of 3.3p.

Ocean Wilsons slowed
by exchange rates

By Alison Mitchell
The fluctuating fortunes of the Brazilian cruzeiros has taken the gloss off the six month figures of shipping and lighterage group Ocean Wilsons (Holdings).

In the half year to July 31, 1979, Ocean turned in pre-tax profits of £1.85m against a previous £1.75m on turnover down £900,000 to £19.4m.

However, had the results been stated in cruzeiros, turnover would have risen 59 per cent and pre-tax profit 77 per cent.

Although director Mr E. Teideman could not quantify the exact cost of the new exchange rate—in the six months under review the number of cruzeiros to the pound has increased from 44.14 to 60.5—he did confirm that the group would suffer an exchange loss in the current year, compared with a surplus last time.

Ocean is currently reaping the benefit of a substantial tug building programme which is now servicing the ports of

Brazil, and much of the six month improvement stems from this side.

It also has a joint venture with Inachepe—which owns 15 per cent of Oceans equity—to support Brazil's offshore oil industry.

For shareholders there is a same again interim dividend of 1.43p while earnings per share rose from 8.63p to 8.84p. At this level the shares, down a penny at 68p yesterday, yield 7.4 per cent historically and the P/E amounts to 7.7.

Apart from its trading activities in Brazil the group has an investment portfolio which is thought to account for around a third of Oceans 90p asset value. The portfolio, largely United Kingdom based, is valued at over £4m.

The group chairman the Earl of Dartmouth will send shareholders an interim statement later this month which will give some indication about the trading prospects for the year as a whole.

Skyships trying again

by Michael Prest

Thermo-Skyships is making a second attempt to get off the ground. The Isle of Man designer and developer of a new kind of lighter-than-air craft has issued a fresh prospectus asking investors to subscribe up to £3.2m.

But investors will only have to chip in with £1.4m to ensure that the project progresses to its next stage. In total the eventual development of a pre-production aircraft will need £30m.



An artist's impression of a Thermo-Skyship.

The company failed to arouse sufficient investor interest in its June prospectus when it tried to raise a total of £6.4m but only managed £400,000, partly because of the complexity of the proposals and partly because little institutional support was forthcoming. The first attempt was launched by London stockbrokers Laing and Cruikshank.

But the company hopes that this time the offer is better considered and that it already has sufficient support to encourage more investors. European Ferries, has retained its 30 per cent stake, and will effectively translate its current loan capital into 12m ordinary shares at £1.25 each, if the full amount is subscribed. A total of £2.56 shares is on offer.

The new attempt is being

managed by the Manchester stock brokers John Siddall and the Glasgow stockbrokers Parsons. Mr. Richard Harcourt, of Siddall says that after the collapse of the last offer his firm was approached by several institutions and investors in the north who were still interested in Thermo-Skyship.

The project has now attracted serious interest from four Scottish institutions and one in London. In addition, discussions with the Belgian, French and United Kingdom governments on the £27m which will be required to take the aircraft's development to an advanced stage are going well.

Mr. Malcolm West, chairman and managing director of Thermo-Skyships, warned that if sufficient backing could not be raised in this country, there was plenty of interest elsewhere in Europe. French investors have expressed great interest and the offer from their government is most attractive. He stressed, however, that the company wants to stay in the United Kingdom.

Laporte
ets a
to go
n rights

Alison Mitchell
Shareholders in chemical manufacturer Laporte Industries have given the thumbs up to the recent £10.6m issue.

Only 41.8 per cent of the shares were taken up, but some 25 per cent went to Laporte's major shareholder plan giant Solvay.

He terms of the issue were for four at 55p and last it the shares closed in the market a penny up on the day.

The issue was underwritten by merchant bankers Warburg.

July 1977 the group raised £10m with a "one-for-four" issue of which there was a 95 per cent acceptance.

The current cash call is seen to support a high level of capital spending—the board puts at £16m 1979-80.

At the year-end, on December 31, 1978, the group had borrowings of just under £75m giving a gearing of 32 per cent.

In the first six months of current year pre-tax profits from a previous £4.7m to £7m on sales £7m higher at 7m.

Town Centre portfolio now valued at £50m

A revaluation of Town Centre Securities' property portfolio gives the group, headed by Mr Arnold Zell, a £19.4m boost to £50m.

The group continues to nudge ahead, with gross revenue up from £2.96m to £3.21m, while pre-tax profits came out at £251,611, against £200,000.

Despite the recent hike in MLR, Town Centre continues to push ahead with its development programme, which includes redevelopment of part of the Blackpool Winter Gardens into a two store shopping centre. The £11m scheme is being undertaken with the Blackpool Tower Company which owns the Winter Gardens.

Town Centre is also making progress with its major industrial development in Edinburgh which, when completed, will provide between 300-400,000 sq ft of space. But its recent refurbishment of the old Central Electricity Generating Board's offices next to the Leeds Meriton Centre providing 70,000 sq ft is still under way.

The board proposes to recommend a one-for-two scrip issue.

Rowton Hotels buys
Grand's freehold

Rowton Hotels has exchanged contracts for the acquisition of the freehold of the Grand Hotel, Southampton. Rowton, London WC at a cost of £840,000. The lease was due to expire in June 1980 and the proposed purchase

will allow the hotel group to refurbish or alter the Grand. It is being financed through the sale of some of Rowton's listed investments.

Life assurance
business up 35 pc

New annual premiums for individual life assurance rose by 35 per cent in the third quarter of the current year to £176m, compared with £130m in the corresponding period of last year.

This takes the total new annual premium business for the first nine months of the year up by 27 per cent to £495m according to figures revealed yesterday by the three big life office associations. New single premiums during the latest three months rose £10m to £150m.

Albert Martin
streamlines

In line with its expansion policy, Albert Martin Holdings has reorganised its group structure. Mr Michael Kidd has been appointed deputy chairman and joint managing director of the group with the present chairman Mr Charles Martin.

The group's subsidiary companies have been reorganised into three main divisions and holding company directors have been appointed as divisional chairman.

Chairman of the Albert Mar-

tin division which produces men, ladies and children's clothing for Marks & Spencer is Trevor Machin.

The Martin Emprex division is now under the chairmanship of Clive Spalding and Mr Alisdair Auld is chairman of the knitwear division which controls Albert Martin Knitwear and the recently acquired Cooper and Ros.

British Vita may
bid for Vita-Tex

The Vita-Tex, the knitwear fabric manufacturer, was suspended yesterday at the company's request pending an announcement. The Slough-based group which exports 22 per cent of its £3m turnover, made £803,000 pre-tax profit in 1978.

Later it was revealed that discussions were taking place which may lead to an offer being made by British Vita for Vita-Tex. A further announcement will be made as soon as possible. British Vita is being advised by N. M. Rothschild, and Vita-Tex by S. G. Warburg.

LCA enters U.S.
display market

LCA, suppliers of advertising material to hotels, has acquired for a nominal sum the trading assets of the New York-based Lobby Displays Corporation, which services hotel showcase advertising facilities in much the same way as LCA. It

already operates in the United Kingdom and Europe.

In addition, Lobby Displays has access to display advertising sites in a number of America's major sports arenas and airports.

Mr John Goffar, chairman of LCA said that although the business of lobby displays has been largely dormant for some years, and it is not expected to contribute to LCA profits in its first year it gives a first-class opportunity to enter the important American market.

LCA ENTERS US 19-11-79

BOC International
in Swedish deal

BOC International has agreed with AB Fortia, Sweden, to buy the remaining 50 per cent of shares in Mediabid AB, the Swedish medical equipment company which, since 1973, has been under the joint ownership of both parties.

Mediabid trades as part of the Mediabid Corporation. BOC International's health-care subsidiary. The company's product range includes anaesthesia and analgesia equipment, medical gas mixing devices and booms and pendings for medical gas supplies. It has its head office in Gothenburg and a factory in Sinskhof.

Completion of the acquisition is scheduled for December 31, 1979.

The consideration involved is not material in relation to the net assets of BOC International.

Brokers quiz Government

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent

Insurance brokers are pressing the Government to clarify its stance on the question of tax relief on life assurance premiums.

The industry fears that the Government may eventually remove the 17 per cent tax relief available on life assurance business, have apparently not been completely played as a result of recent policy statements.

Last week, however, Sir Keith Joseph in a speech to the National Association of Pension Funds stated that it was not the Government's intention to change the tax relief provisions

on pension scheme contributions.

This has spurred Mr Robert McGladie, MP, parliamentary consultant to the British Insurance Brokers' Association to write to Mr John Biffen, chief secretary to the Treasury, calling for a similar assurance in respect of life assurance relief.

In his letter he says that if pension scheme contributions are to remain tax deductible then presumably so will self-employed retirement annuities. This would mean that if life assurance relief was removed people who had chosen to provide for their retirement by endowment policies would be penalised.

"In addition," he says "at

a time when the Government is rightly encouraging self help and thrift, any action which would discourage 30 million policy-holders from continuing to pay their premiums would be most unfortunate."

Removal of tax relief could be a severe blow for the life insurance industry and particularly for insurance brokers who have increasingly specialised in selling tax efficient schemes in recent years. However, the Government has so far stated that any major changes it may wish to make as part of its plans to simplify taxation must wait until there is leeway for a significant overall tax reduction.

Advance by Stocklake

Stocklake Holdings, the steel stockholding group which has a profitable footing in Zimbabwe Rhodesia through its British Rhodesian Steel subsidiary, has turned in a small profit increase at the year end.

Pre-tax profit rose by 7 per cent to £1.36m while turnover increased by 6 per cent to £25.7m in the year to March 31

1979. These results did not include those of BRS which was estimated last year to be worth £750,000 pre-tax profit.

A final dividend of 3.46p gross against 3.16p has been recommended making a total of 4.67p gross. Earnings per share have risen from 14.3p to 17.5p.

Earlier this year the group reported difficult conditions for

its Canadian shoe importing operation which has since made a good recovery while the steel stockholding businesses in Africa continued to make good progress.

In the U.K. the Adam and Harvey group's profits were ahead in spite of disappointing results from its textile and agricultural machinery interests.

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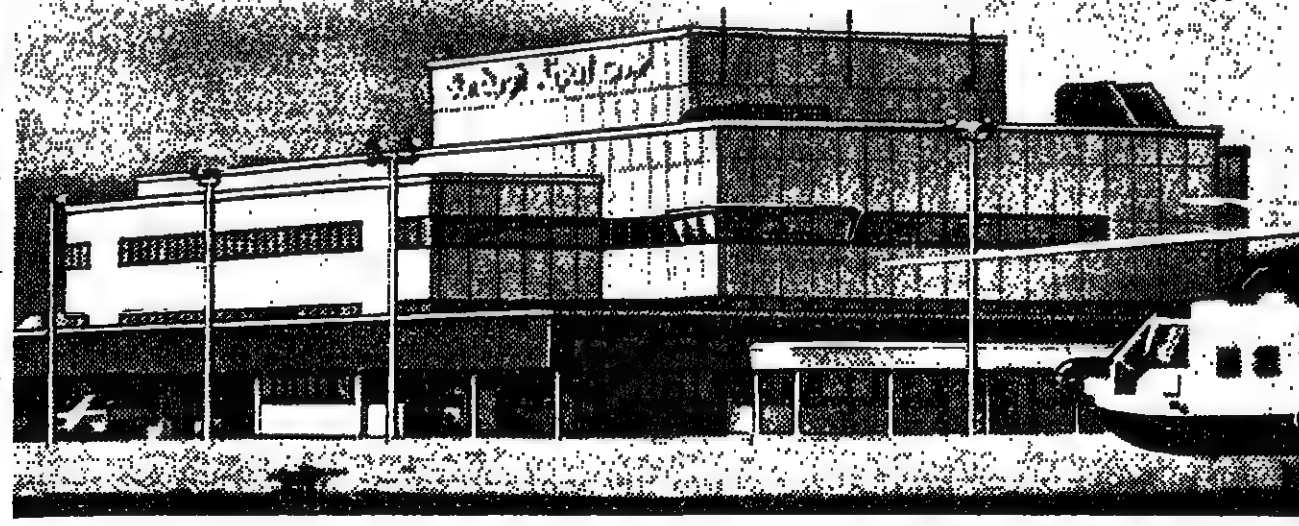
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Main Contractor: G. Percy-Trentham Ltd.

This 277,000 sq. ft. warehouse development at the Haslemere Heathrow Estate was completed to a high specification and a tight programme.

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(Civil Aviation Authority)

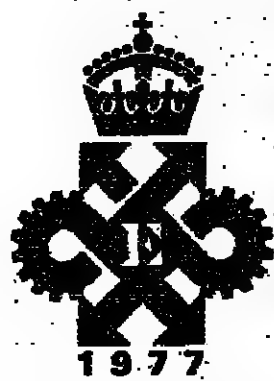
Project Manager & Quantity Surveyor: Ian Peters & Partners. Architect & Master Planning: G. R. M. Kennedy & Partners.
Main Contractor: G. Percy-Trentham Ltd.

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For further information contact T. K. Holder, Conder International Ltd, Winchester, Hampshire. Telephone (0962) 882222. Telex 47465.



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Report November 19 1979

Good title 'beyond reasonable doubt'

C Ltd v Christian-Edwards

The Court of Appeal, in a judgment given by Lord Justice Goff, has held that a good title is beyond reasonable doubt.

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The court's decision was based on the fact that the plaintiff had been in possession of the land for a long period of time, and that the defendant had failed to provide any evidence to support his claim.

The court also found that the plaintiff had acted reasonably in the circumstances, and that the defendant's actions were unreasonable.

The court's decision was a significant one, as it clarified the law on good title. It is now clear that a good title is beyond reasonable doubt, and that a defendant must provide evidence to support his claim.

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they had failed to provide a good title in accordance with the contract of sale of 1973.

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In *Johnson v Clarke* (1928) Ch 847 and *Smith v Colbourne* (1914) 2 Ch 533, which concerned decisions of the court on a question of law where it had been contended that a good title had not been made, the judges decided that "it is the duty of the court, unless in very exceptional circumstances, to decide the rights between the vendor and the purchaser, even though a third person not a party to the action will not be bound by the decision."

His Lordship thought that principle was to be applied also when the question whether a sufficiently good title had been shown depended on a conclusion or inference as to fact: and that the court should be guided by the law in *Peru* on specific performance (5th ed, paragraphs 889, 890 and 891) and the authorities there cited, so that a "mere possibility" that a claimant to an interest, not bound by the decision of the court in proceedings to enforce the contract, might be able to establish a better title, would not in an appropriate case deter the court from decreeing specific performance of the contract.

In the instant case, apart from the reference in the 1930 deed to the performance of the contract for sale being suspended, there could be no shadow of doubt that the purchaser could not be at risk of a successful assertion against him of the claimant's title.

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Registration Act, 1925, or in the rules as to the circumstances in which land might be registered without notice of an incumbrance, so there was no reason why the court should depart from the rules it had laid down for dealing with situations like the present. It would be illogical if different rules were to apply according to whether land came to be included in a compulsory area or remained outside. It would, finally, be inconsistent that in a case where a vendor had been held by the Court of Appeal and the House to have shown a good marketable title, the Chief Land Registrar should hold that he had shown something less, or if he should do so, why the vendor under an open contract should be held by the court not to have shown such a title.

Accordingly, His Lordship was of opinion beyond reasonable doubt on the facts (a) that there was abandonment of the contract of sale to Percy before 1935 (and probably in connection with the second lease to Percy in 1932-33) and (b) that no representative of Percy could at the time of the contract of sale to the appellant purchasers have established a case for specific performance against them. Good title was shown and the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Moore, Pennington & Co.

Local law decides title to goods

Winkworth v Christie Manson and Woods Ltd and Another

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Glavin and Another v Secretary of State for Social Services

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THE TIMES
Higher Education
SUPPLEMENT

Appointments Vacant also on page 26

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of East Anglia

HISTORIAN

As Senior Research Associate in the Climatic Research Unit, the University of East Anglia, is seeking a qualified historian to join its staff. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of the history of the climate. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, by 15 December 1979.

University of Reading

LECTURESHIP AT THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer, tenable at the National College of Food Technology, Reading, for a period of five years. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of food technology. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Reading, Reading, RG2 2AA, by 15 December 1979.

University College of North Wales

CHAIR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Applications are invited for the post of Professor of Computer Science, to be held at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of computer science. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University College of North Wales, Bangor, LL57 2DQ, by 15 December 1979.

University of Oxford

UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN EGYPTOLOGY AND COPTIC

Applications are invited for the post of University Lecturer in Egyptology and Coptic, to be held at the University of Oxford. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of Egyptology and Coptic. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Oxford, Oxford, OX1 2JD, by 15 December 1979.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The University of Leeds

ASTROPHYSICIST

Applications are invited for a post of Astrophysicist, to be held at the University of Leeds. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of astrophysics. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, by 15 December 1979.

University of Oxford

LECTURESHIP IN THE MODERN HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Modern History of the Middle East, to be held at the University of Oxford. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of the modern history of the Middle East. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Oxford, Oxford, OX1 2JD, by 15 December 1979.

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University of Oxford

LECTURESHIP IN THE MODERN HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Modern History of the Middle East, to be held at the University of Oxford. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of the modern history of the Middle East. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Oxford, Oxford, OX1 2JD, by 15 December 1979.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

CHAIR OF ORAL PHYSIOLOGY

Applications are invited for the post of Chair of Oral Physiology, to be held at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of oral physiology. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, by 15 December 1979.

University of Otago

DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND

LECTURER IN BOTANY

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Botany, to be held at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research and teaching of botany. The post is full-time and involves a salary of £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, by 15 December 1979.



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THE TIMES

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

TELEVISION

BBC 1

5.55 For Schools, Colleges, 3.35
Out of the Past (the Normans),
9.55 Talkabout, 10.15 Look and
Read, 10.35 Des Le Décor, 11.00
The Mervyn (1), 11.17 The Young
Choice, a play, 11.35 Taking Shape
(series), 12.05 General Studies.
Closedown at 12.30.
12.45 News and Weather.
1.00 Pebble MUI at One: Max Jaffe
looks back over 50 years of music
making.
1.45 Bagpuss: for young children
(r).
2.00 You and Me, also for toddlers
(r).
2.14 For Schools, colleges, 2.14
Exposures, 2.20 Part of the
Plough and the Stars (r).
3.00 News, 3.05
3.25 Declassified: Welsh pro-
gramme.
3.55 Play School: the story of Jack
and the Beanstalk.
4.20 Secret Spies: cartoon.
4.25 Indiana Jones, Joseph O'Connor
reads King Canidom and the
arts.

BBC 2

10.05 News World: owning a
franchise (r).
11.00 Play School: same as BBC 1
3.55.
11.25 Write Away: helping to im-
prove your spelling.
11.40 A Child's Place: children in
care (r). Closedown at 12.05.
2.30 The Engineers: from shop
sewer to director (r).
3.00 Whistle Movers: Chris Dun-
kley with another programme
about investigative journalism (r).
3.30 The Living City: sociology
series. Small and large businesses
(r).
4.10 A Taste of Work: youth
weekend (r). Closedown at 4.35.
5.45 Laurel and Hardy: below

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools, 9.30 Experi-
ment (chemistry), 9.47 Seeing
and Doing (biology), 10.04 Reading
with Lenny, 10.14 Watch Your Lan-
guage, 10.35 English Programme.
11.05 Learning, 11.22 Good Health
(germs), 11.39 The Land (Cum-
berland Lake District).
12.00 Simon in the Land of Chalk
Drawings: Bernard Cribbins nar-
rates a children's story.
12.10 pm Once Upon a Time: the
story of The Fox and the Crow.
12.30 Kermadec: Farm: more
about Dolly's impending wedding.
1.00 News: with Peter Sissons.
1.20 Thames News: with Robbi
Houston.
1.30 About Britain: long-distance
West Country scroller Clive Gun-
nell makes for Pudeon village.
2.00 After Noon Plus: the mag-
azine programme that always has
at least one item of general in-
terest.
2.45 Love Boat: tales of a luxury
liner in the Pacific. Obviously a
comedy series.
3.45 George Fane and Company:
pop music show.
4.15 Under the Same Sun: picture
story about old China. Title: The
Thunder King.
4.45 Maggie: Jenny Hanley goes to
Spain in this magazine for young
viewers.
5.15 Monty's London: last of the
series. Tonight, Mr. Moddy looks
at... some of London's most in-
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5.45 News.

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5.55 For Schools, Colleges, 3.35
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Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.10, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call.
10.00 News.
10.05 In Britain Now.
10.30 Daily Service.
11.00 Prospects: John (cond.).
11.00 News.
11.05 Thirty-Minute Theatre: Sun-
day.
11.55 Towards 2000.
12.00 News.
12.05 pm You and Yours.
12.20 Down Your Way.
12.35 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.05 Woman's Hour.
2.30 News.
3.02 Listen With Mother.
3.15 The Moonstone (cond.).
4.10 Bookshelf.
4.40 Preview.
4.45 Short Story: Love Hurts.
5.00 PM.
5.10 News.
5.20 Many a Slip.
7.00 News.
7.10 The Archers.
7.20 Michael Charlton Interviews
Dr Henry Kissinger.
7.30 News.
7.35 The Magic of Music.
7.45 Anthony Smith on Insurance.
8.30 Kaleidoscope.
8.45 The World Tonight.
9.30 The Horrible Story (5).
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: The
Widower (21).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15-12.25 am Inshore Forecast.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Havdn, Hummel,
Mozart (Sym 36).
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Tchaikovsky, Rach-
maninov (Piano Concerto 1), Glazunov.
9.00 News.
9.05 Strauss (Don Quixote).
9.30 Northern Brass Ensemble.
10.20 Interval reading.
10.25 Northern Brass Ensemble.
10.55 Israel Piano Quartet: Schu-
mann (Op 47).
11.25 In Short.
11.30 Israel Pno Qtrt: Dvorak (Op
87).
12.15 pm BBC Concert Orch:
Weber, Mozart.
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents.
1.20 BBCO Beethoven (incl.
Sym 21).
1.45 The Polignac Scholten.
2.00 Oboe and piano: Dutilleul,
Seiber, Poulenc.
2.35 Violin and Instruments.
2.45 News.
2.50 Northern Brass Ensemble.
3.25 Jazz Today.
3.55 Homeward Bound.
4.55 Homeward Bound.
5.15 At Home.
5.20 The World Tonight.
5.30 The World Turned Right Way
Up.
5.40 Philharmonia (Mozart) (Royal
Academy, Strauss, Elgar).
5.45 Happy and Glorious: poetry.
5.45 Philharmonia (Mozart).
5.55 Sibelius (Sym 21).
6.00 A Winter's Tale, fable by
Gerard Rudin.
6.10 News.
6.15 The World Tonight.
6.20 News.
6.25 Homeward Bound.
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING STARTS HERE

- APPOINTMENTS VACANT 25, 27
- BUSINESS TO BUSINESS 27
- DOMESTIC SITUATIONS 27
- EDUCATIONAL 27
- ENTERTAINMENTS 27
- LEGAL APPOINTMENTS 27
- SALEROON AND ANTIQUES 26
- PROPERTY 26
- SECRETARIAL AND NON-SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS 27

Non-Confidential advertisements should be addressed to: The Times Classified Advertising Department, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY
01-837 3311
01-276 9161
PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS
01-276 9231
PERSONAL TRADE
01-276 9351
MANCHESTER OFFICE
061-834 1234

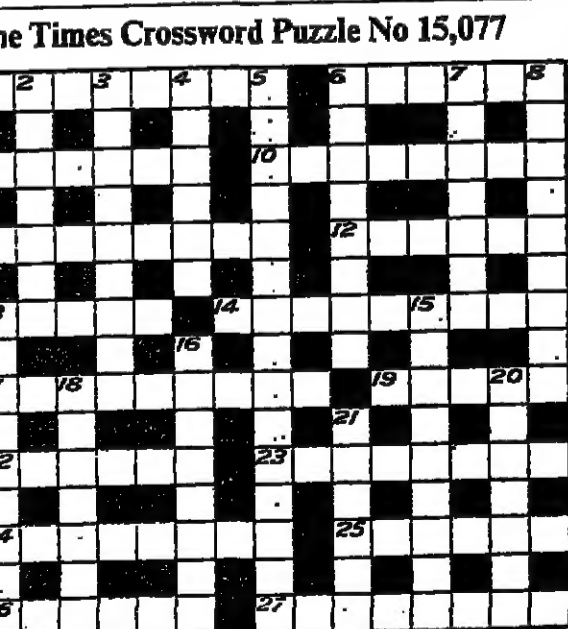
Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, to: Classified Advertising Department, 01-837 3311, ext. 7189. All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD.
We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proofread. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Advertising Department immediately by telephoning 01-837 3311 (Ext. 7189). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL COPIES IS 24 HOURS.
Alterations to copy is 3.00 pm prior to the day of publication. For Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number is issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

It is not the will of your advertisement to appear in the paper if it is not paid for. If you do not pay for it, it will not appear. - St. Matthew 18: 17.

BIRTHS
ADAMSON-CROUCHER—On October 15th, a son, Andrew, to Adamson and Croucher. (Mrs. Croucher is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adamson.)
ALLEN—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Allen. (Mrs. Allen is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen.)
BARTON—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Barton. (Mrs. Barton is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barton.)
BOWEN—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Bowen. (Mrs. Bowen is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bowen.)
CANNON-BROOKES—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Cannon-Brookes. (Mrs. Cannon-Brookes is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cannon-Brookes.)
COLLIER—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Collier. (Mrs. Collier is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Collier.)
DRUMMOND—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Drummond. (Mrs. Drummond is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Drummond.)
DREW—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Drew. (Mrs. Drew is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Drew.)



- ACROSS**
- This property is mine (10 letters) (1).
 - Fishy follower of a trout perhaps (5).
 - Lupine body of Assyrians (6).
 - Put in store by Navy in agreed form (3).
 - Cotton Blossom whose old man didn't say, nothing (4, 4).
 - Northern monkey-house requires table linen (6).
 - Rebuke the Last of the Mohicans deceased (5).
 - What stops Hamlet from wearing meat? (9).
 - Institution of Chinese dynasty in gold half-cent (9).
 - Where par extract provides essential oil? (5).
 - Wood, of course, is the man at the wheel (6).
 - German finds odd letters in the Sun investigating (8).
 - Adventure makes a hit with Arm (4, 4).
 - Adventure with doctor or the phony actor? (6).
 - Country offers choice of quarters? Yes (6).
 - Shorehouse takes in 100 from Centre Point (8).
- DOWN**
- Clerical went upset Henry- of such great importance? (7).
 - Time-keeper orders withdrawal of securities (4-5).
 - Idea has no style without one (6).
 - Can a conductor save 22's industrial action? (9, 6).
 - Tearful lament? No, the dry sort (8).
 - Bad theories George into the stream (7).
 - Edwardian maid said to be a cuddly type (5, 4).
 - Leucocystopha decapitated this old fighter (9).
 - Instrument that gives bores real trouble (9).
 - Prayer by competitors about to take food (8).
 - Canine hint (7).
 - How to play? Cat on a Hot Tin Roof? (7).
 - Not the inner circle for a start (6).
- Solution of Puzzle No 15,076**
- ACROSS: 1. MY MINE, 2. FISHY, 3. LUPINE, 4. PUT IN, 5. COTTON, 6. NORTHERN, 7. REBUKE, 8. WHAT, 9. INSTITUTION, 10. WHERE, 11. WOOD, 12. GERMAN, 13. ADVENTURE, 14. ADVENTURE, 15. COUNTRY, 16. SHOREHOUSE.
- DOWN: 17. CLERICAL, 18. TIME-KEEPER, 19. IDEA, 20. CONDUCTOR, 21. TEARFUL, 22. BAD, 23. EDWARDIAN, 24. LEUCOCYSTOPHA, 25. INSTRUMENT, 26. PRAYER, 27. CANINE.

DEATHS

DUKE—On March 11 to Rosemary, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duke. (Mrs. Duke is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duke.)
GREEN—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Green. (Mrs. Green is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Green.)
CRISTOFANO—On April 30 to Cristofano, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Cristofano. (Mrs. Cristofano is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cristofano.)
HEATHERTON—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Heatherton. (Mrs. Heatherton is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Heatherton.)
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MARRIAGES
SHACKLE—On January 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Shackle. (Mrs. Shackle is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shackle.)
WILSON—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. (Mrs. Wilson is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.)
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LE VAY—On June 20, 1979, to Le Vay, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Le Vay. (Mrs. Le Vay is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Le Vay.)
O'DOOL—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. O'Dool. (Mrs. O'Dool is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O'Dool.)
SEWELL—On April 20, 1979, to Sewell, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Sewell. (Mrs. Sewell is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sewell.)
SPILLER—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Spiller. (Mrs. Spiller is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Spiller.)
WILSON—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. (Mrs. Wilson is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.)
WILSON—On November 15th, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. (Mrs. Wilson is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.)

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS
UNWANTED-LOST
Daily they arrive, the stars and abandoned, the sick and the injured. THE WOOD GREEN ANTIQUE SHOP, 100, Wood Green Lane, London N22 5LQ. (Non-Resident Dr. Margaret Young, has cared for these animals since 1974. It has a Free Clinic for the Sick and a Cat Sanctuary at Ladbroke Grove, London. It maintains a large Country Home for Blind and Unwanted Animals at Heydon, on Heydon, Heydon, Heydon. Help by sending a donation for the STRAYS' CHRISTMAS DINNER.

CANCER RESEARCH
"What can I do to help?" Everyone has asked this question. The answer is: You can help to fight cancer. The Royal Cancer Society, the largest independent cancer charity in the world, is now raising money for cancer research. Help by sending a donation for the STRAYS' CHRISTMAS DINNER.

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